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Portas priorities are agreed for town centre

By Dean Kilpatrick
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PLANS to help revive the High Street were discussed at the first Portas Pilot meeting to be held since the bid was approved in July.

The meeting, which was chaired by MP Damian Green, looked to take plans forward by discussing what improvements were needed in the town centre.

Suggestions included a local produce market to attract more visitors and improving Ashford's shopping area's online presence.

Council leader, Cllr Peter Wood said: "This was a very productive first meeting of the town team – it was good to get

the ball rolling and to confirm our priorities for the coming months.

"There is a lot of work to do, and we will work closely with businesses and residents to ensure their needs and views are properly represented at every stage."

Ashford won its second bid to receive government funding and expert advice from Mary Portas to help revive the High Street.

Chair of Ashford Town Centre Partnership David Church said: "It is great to see the town centre recognised as a priority – there are a lot of positive things happening and we need to ensure businesses and residents are supportive of all that we are looking to do."



TORCHBEARER: Lynne Gray is pictured with her Olympic torch and several other volunteers

CEREMONY

VOLUNTEER'S MEDALS

THE district's Olympic volunteers and torchbearers have been recognised at a special ceremony.

Almost 70 volunteer marshals and three local torch bearers were welcomed to a drinks reception by the Mayor and Mayoress of Ashford to celebrate the Ashford leg of the torch relay.

All volunteers were presented with personalised certificates commemorating

their efforts during the once-in-a-lifetime moment.

Members of the public gave up their time on July 18 and 19 to help manage crowds and keep roads clear when the Olympic flame was carried through Hamstreet, Ashford and Challock.

Ashford's own torchbearers attended and posed for photos with the volunteers and their torches.

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COUNCIL

Last chance for your say

A PUBLIC consultation which looks to shape the future of the borough is set to close.

The document will explore the town's priorities and reflect the changing economy.

The consultation document can be read online at www.ashford.gov.uk/consult and ends on October 31.

COMMUNITY

Charing wins village award

THE village of Charing has been recognised in a rural community competition.

It won the community category and finished runner-up in the communication category.

Rolunden was also shortlisted for a number of categories at the event.

COURT

Burglary gang jailed after stealing from rural properties

A GANG of burglars has been jailed after stealing jewellery and antiques from nearly 40 homes across Ashford and Canterbury.

Romanians Petru Ilian Lascar, 32, Christian Vasile Tataru, 34, and George Nicoara, 37, were sentenced to a total of 14 years after admitting conspiracy to commit burglaries.

The gang targeted mostly rural, de-

tached and empty properties and stole more than £45,000 of possessions between last October and February this year.

More than 200 items were recovered when police officers carried out an early morning search warrant at a cottage in Molash rented out by the three. Another property belonging to one of the gang was searched and a further

300 items were found.

Det Sgt Rob Marsh said: "A team of detectives worked long hours to identify property from burglaries reported to police during the end of last year and the beginning of 2012, and I am pleased that much of the items we recovered have been returned to their rightful owners."

"It appears that these men picked a

rural location where they thought they could get away with breaking into homes and stealing items that for many have huge sentimental value and were the result of collections built up over years.

"Burglary can be devastating for many victims, particularly the elderly, and I hope the sentences will bring a sense of justice."

DEATH

Former pupil dies at school

A TEENAGER has died after sheltering from rain at his old school.

The cause of death is unknown, but the former Towers School and Sixth Form Centre pupil's death is not being treated as suspicious.

A minute's silence was held.

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EVENT



ONE IN THE EYE: Coxheath Scouts (left) helped prepare the 1,200 custard pies for the world championships which was won by the Pie of the Tiger team



Pictures: DAVID STAUNTON-LAMBERT

World record for celeb as custard pie throwing contest hits right spot

By Chrissie Daniels

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MAYHEM descended on a normally sleepy rural village last weekend as giant bananas, Elvis impersonators, and even a couple of famous faces, flocked to the World Custard Pie Throwing Championships.

Inspired by the slapstick fun of silent movie legend Charlie Chaplin, the event saw 16 teams of four donning fancy dress costumes and launching pies at each other in a bid to be crowned the throwing champions.

It took place at the Stile Bridge pub in Marden.

Among the competitors were Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps actor Will Mellor and comedian Rory McGrath who were filming for new Channel 5 show Will, and Rory Champions of the World.

Entrants Pie of the Tiger eventually took the crown, with Tutu Fruity From This Art of Mine coming second.

Also at the contest were the Guinness World Record officials as the showbiz stars tried to break the record for telling 20 jokes in a minute. Mellor managed to secure the record, but McGrath fell short.

The custard pie throwing event was created by former Maidstone mayor Mike FitzGerald in 1967, to raise funds for the village hall.

It soon got a worldwide following, with up to 90 teams taking part from as far afield as Japan and China before it was disbanded.

It was resurrected in 2007, when Mr FitzGerald became mayor once again, and it proved so popular it still continues.

Now, although a much smaller affair, the championships still attract national coverage and organiser Brian Mortimer, a local councillor, is hoping to build on the contest's success in years to come.

Cllr Mortimer said: "The day went very smoothly, we had spectators getting splattered, but they didn't mind and it was absolutely fan-

tastic. Rory is such a character and all the women wanted to see Will."

Despite their name, the custard pies are made from flour and water, as custard "doesn't fly".

Coxheath Scouts got thoroughly covered as they prepared the 1,200 pies needed for the event, which used a massive 200 bags of flour weighing 3lb each.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Pilot people smuggler

A BELGIAN pilot who attempted to smuggle illegal immigrants into the county has been jailed for three years. Jean Francois Hennaux admitted to helping several groups of migrants get into the UK by flying his light aircraft into Kent airfields. He was caught after he landed unexpectedly at Headcorn aerodrome in June. Two Albanian adults and children disembarked the plane and were prevented from leaving the site by staff. He was sentenced to three years.

➔ Eurostar disruptions

EUROSTAR services will be disrupted this weekend by "essential" Eurotunnel engineering works scheduled to take place in the Channel Tunnel. The times for some Eurostar services from Saturday until Monday have been changed, and passengers are being asked to check the special timetable published on Eurostar.com to see if their departure times have changed. Eurostar says it is contacting directly affected passengers.

➔ Mental health changes

INPATIENT wards in Thanet and Canterbury for older people with mental health problems in east Kent will get £3.5m investment, under plans agreed by NHS Kent and Medway Cluster Board. There will also be more crisis services for living with dementia at home and in care homes, say officials. The public favoured three sites to include Ashford, but clinicians said patients would get a better service if beds were based at two centres.

ACCIDENT

Highways Agency officer is killed on M25 as he helps at crash site

A MAJOR investigation is under way after a Highways Agency traffic officer was killed when he was hit by a car on the M25 on Tuesday.

John Walmsley (pictured) had been attending the scene of an earlier, minor, accident when the tragedy occurred.

The 59-year-old from Gravesend was struck by a Vauxhall Vectra travelling from Kent into Surrey. He was declared dead at the scene.

The incident happened near junction five at Chevening, near Sevenoaks.

His family issued a moving tribute on Thursday: "John Walmsley, our dad, was a great dad, grandad and most importantly great husband, who is irreplaceable."

"He had the affection and respect of just about everyone he came in contact with, due to his honesty and kindness with and to them. He will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him. XX"

The incident caused huge hold-ups on



motorway with a section fully closed to traffic for a short while, and also forced the temporary closure of the M26 as air ambulance teams touched down.

Police were first called to a minor collision at around 1.40pm on the clockwise carriageway of the motorway.

But as they attended the scene, the situation escalated into a major incident when the Highway Agency officer was struck.

A Highways Agency spokesman said: "We are liaising with relevant investigating authorities and as such it would not be appropriate to comment further."

The Vectra was carrying three occupants. Two people were taken to a local hospital; one with injuries believed to be serious and the other with minor injuries.

The incident happened on the M25 prior to where it joins the M26 on the clockwise carriageway.

The road was fully reopened by 10pm.

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Dover, CT17 0HL

Thursday, 4 October, 2 to 4pm
The River Centre, Medway Wharf Road,
Tonbridge, TN9 1RE

Monday, 8 October, 2 to 4pm
Hawkinge Community Centre,
Heron Forstal Avenue, Hawkinge, CT18 7BP

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VENUE FOR THE STARS:

Some of the world's top artists have graced the Hop Farm Festival stage including Prince (far left) and the legendary Bob Dylan

MUSIC

Sounds bad for Hop Farm Festival as organiser goes into administration

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IN ITS short life, the Hop Farm Festival established itself as one of the big hitters on the crowded summer scene – but this week its very future hangs in the balance after its promoters prepared to call in the administrators.

It will come as a blow to the local economy – which it was claimed benefited to the tune of millions of pounds by thousands of people descending on the area every year – and to music fans in the county who had grown accustomed to big names performing on their doorstep.

In recent years it has seen the likes of Prince, Morrissey, Lou Reed, The Eagles, Van Morrison and Bob Dylan perform, expanding the two-day event to three days in 2011.

The company behind it is Music Festivals plc. It is run by Vince Power, the man credited with turning around the fortunes of such giants as Glastonbury and Reading during the 1990s before making millions by selling his Mean Fiddler organisation. It suspended its shares last Friday as the scale of its financial woes became apparent.

After launching on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) last June, at a share price of 66.5p, it valued the company at £10 million. By the time of Friday's announcement, that price had plunged to 2.12p – making the company worth a little over £310,000.

And on Monday it confirmed it was set to appoint an administrator.

In a short statement, it said: "The company announced on August 2 that due to poor trading conditions it expected to generate a material loss for the year ending December 31, 2012, and it was seeking to raise additional working capital.

"The board has in recent weeks pursued a number of different funding proposals, but the company has not been able to procure the necessary funding it requires."

At the heart of its woes lies the Hop Farm Festival, staged in the grounds of the popular tourist attraction in Paddock Wood.

It achieved what few have; establishing itself as a niche event, delivering legendary names aimed at the discerning music fan with that all-important disposable income.

Earlier this summer Music Festivals plc confirmed a big hole blown in its finances by poor ticket sales for the Kent event.

It blamed increased competition from the Olympics, free festivals and the disappointing weather. It also saw a drop in profits at its Spanish event, Benacissim.



MUSICMAN:
Vince Power

POWERED BY THE MUSIC

VINCE Power's reputation in the music industry is unlikely to be hit too hard by the troubles faced by the Hop Farm Festival.

During the 80s he built up his Mean Fiddler empire, starting from a small venue in Harlesden, London, and expanding to include key live venues such as The Forum in Camden and the nearby Jazz Cafe. In 2005, he sold the Mean Fiddler company for a staggering £38 million.

After taking a few years out, he returned with events in Spain and the Hop Farm event in 2008. He always spoke of the Hop Farm being a long-term commitment.

However, not all he touched turned to gold. In 2010, he lost nearly £8m when music promotions and pub business Vince Power Music Group crumbled.

By 2011 things seemed to be back on track; he launched the Feis Festival in London and the Hop Farm grabbed headlines. Buoyed by the positive PR, he floated Music Festivals on AIM. But earlier this summer it was reported he pumped £750,000 into the firm to keep it afloat. He will almost inevitably return.

Experts in the music industry point towards a squeeze on big ticket spending and increased competition. Others said this year's line-up was lack-lustre at best, and disappointing at worst.

Whatever is at the root of the problem, it would appear the 2013 event hangs by a particularly thin thread.

A spokesman for the festival was keeping tight-lipped this week, but last month was unable to confirm if the 2013 event would go ahead, as we exclusively revealed.

It would appear the financial pressures were in part, at least, the reason two open-air shows at the Hop Farm featuring Leonard Cohen were dramatically pulled and moved into Wembley Arena earlier this month. The reasons were never fully explained, but it was stressed it was not due in any part on the Hop Farm's suitability.

For the Hop Farm itself, managers are waiting to hear about the outcome of the latest drama, but say they remains optimistic the festival could return.

Miguel Fenton, head of communications at the venue, said it was not ruling out the event returning in 2013 for a sixth consecutive year.

He said: "We are aware of the situation, but at this stage, in terms of the

2013 event, we are still awaiting confirmation."

He confirmed the festival rents the venue each year and that it had no outstanding bills. It is not clear what its contractual commitments with the venue may be with regard any possible long-term deals.

Lounge on the Farm, the county's other highest profile festival, staged annually on the outskirts of Canterbury, was sympathetic to the Hop Farm's plight.

A spokesman said: "It is always sad to see a cultural offering go, regardless whether this is competition or not."

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Man killed on train track

A MAN has died after being struck by a train on the line at Sandling. British Transport Police officers were called to the scene at just after 8am on Thursday, and the incident is not being treated as suspicious. Passengers suffered delays following the incident, with no trains calling at any station between Ashford International and Dover Priory, and services through Canterbury West cancelled or diverted at short notice.

➔ No 2012 gold for Hornby

MARGATE-based toy and model company Hornby has said it will not make a profit this year, following poor sales of London 2012 merchandise and disruption to production at its Chinese supplier. Following its announcement, its shares fell around 40 per cent to 50p. Lower-than-expected sales of Olympics products meant retailers cancelled repeat orders, so the firm now only expects to break even in the 2012-13 financial year. Last year it made profits of £4.5m.

➔ OAP saved from blaze

AN elderly man was rescued from a house fire on Monday night. Firefighters wore breathing apparatus to enter the home in Western Avenue, Ashford, and found the lounge area well alight and the elderly man in a first-floor bedroom. Three fire engines and around 15 firefighters tackled the blaze which is believed to have started accidentally from a discarded cigarette. The man suffered serious smoke inhalation.



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ART

£3,700 painting bought in golf club is long-lost Turner valued at £20m

By Chrissie Daniels

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AN ART enthusiast has hit the jackpot after the painting he bought at an auction has been verified as a Turner original worth a massive £20 million.

Jonathan Weal, 54, from Bromley, bought the oil painting believed to show a coastal scene in Kent, at an auction at the Wealden Golf Club in 2004.

He paid £3,700 for the piece entitled Fishing Boats In A Stiff Breeze, which had a reserve of between just £700-£900.

Now, after years of painstaking research, the work has finally been verified as one of famous artist JMW Turner's (pictured) lost pieces, dating back to 1805 – the same year he painted his famous The Battle of Trafalgar.

Art insurers Hiscox are said to have valued the piece at £20 million.

Turner was renowned for his beautiful land-

scapes and Mr Weal believes his painting depicts a scene in Kent on the Goodwin Sands, off the coast between Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

He said: "The auction had 1,000 lots and between 200 and 300 of them were paintings.

"I saw it [the Turner picture] on the Saturday, researched it and bought it on the Sunday."

Since then he has spent 3,000 hours proving its authenticity, including using a handwriting expert to analyse the signature and getting seven professors to back up his claims.

He has also walked miles of the coast around Ramsgate in all weathers in a bid to find the exact location which inspired the painting.

Mr Weal said that the pivotal moment for him was when the handwriting was confirmed as Turner's leaving him "absolutely elated".

Mr Weal, who works at an art investment fund, has also discovered the work previously belonged to Turner's best friend, the Reverend Henry Scott Trimmer.



ORIGINAL: Turner's Fishing Boats In A Stiff Breeze is believed to depict a scene off the Kent coast

He said: "What's beautiful is it links Turner to the Kent coast, again."

The discovery comes as another three pieces inspired by views from Kent, but branded as fakes, are now thought to be genuine Turner creations.

The three oil paintings – The Beacon Light, Off Margate and Margate Jetty – were left to the National Museum Wales.

They will now go on display in Cardiff.

For Mr Weal the next stage is to see what people have to say about his painting and this week art specialists gathered at the Dulwich Picture Gallery in London for a conference on the rare piece.

At the moment he is not discussing whether he will sell the work.

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CAMPAIGN

'Ticking time bomb' sunken ship sparks debate at meeting on estuary airport plans

By Dean Kilpatrick

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THE perils of triggering an explosion capable of sending a tsunami along the Thames Estuary with the construction of a proposed multi-billion pound airport were discussed at a public meeting on Thursday night.

The audience met at the St George's Centre at Chatham Maritime to discuss the dangers posed by the wreck of American military ship the SS Richard Montgomery.

It lies off the coast of Sheppey, close to the Medway Approach Channel, where she sank in 1944.

Her masts can still be seen.

Almost 1,400 tonnes of explosive are still aboard the vessel, and experts insist the concept of an estuary airport can't even be considered until the explosives within the ship are made safe.

It is claimed if the boat was to explode, it would trigger a 4ft tidal wave and smash every window in nearby Sheerness.

This week's meeting was held to explore the dangers the "ticking time bomb" poses to the area, and to discuss the future of the airport project.

Organiser of the event, Ken Rowles, who is making a film about the SS Montgomery for American television, said an estuary airport was out of the question.

Mr Rowles said: "I think it would be very irresponsible



DANGER ZONE: The wreck of the American military ship the SS Richard Montgomery, laden with 1,400 tonnes of explosives, can be clearly seen jutting out off the estuary

6699

If you look at any of the plans the Montgomery will be in the way of runways, and that will be a concern

COLIN HARVEY, FILM-MAKER

for any kind of plans for an airport in the estuary without doing something about the Montgomery.

"The main danger is anything coming off a plane or, as we've seen in New York, planes missing the runway and hitting the water."

He added that an airport in Kent would be good for business, but said there was "plenty of opportunity" with Manston and other regional airports.

The SS Richard Montgomery is clearly visible above the wa-

ter line, and contains a number of cluster bombs amongst other munitions.

Documentary-maker Colin Harvey said: "If you look at any of the plans, whether it be the floating airport or any of the other ideas, the Montgomery will be in the way of runways, and that will be a huge concern for people in Sheppey and Southend."

The sunken vessel lies just 1.5 miles off Sheppey and five miles from the Essex town.

If a team was to work in try-

ing to deactivate the explosives, it is believed a 30-mile exclusion zone would have to be applied to the area, and one wrong move could lead to huge levels of destruction.

Experts are angry nothing has been done about the ailing vessel, with increased worries about the stability of decks on the vessel which are holding up a large number of explosives.

Mr Harvey added: "Over the years it was considered the best thing to do, but the original experts who went before Par-

liament in the 1940s said leaving it along was not an option.

"The best plan is to remove it. Sure, it's pricey, but what's the price of life?"

Scientist and explosives expert Mike Barker, despite supporting the idea of an estuary airport, admitted building work could not be carried out until the explosives were cleared.

He said: "It's never been as dangerous as it is today. All of the scans provide no information on the condition of the munitions inside the wreck."

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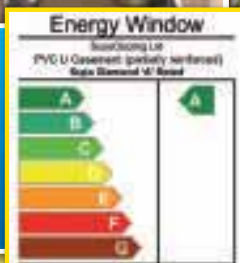
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ECONOMY

Rural elderly on the poverty line are shown how to save thousands of pounds by advice service

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CITIZENS Advice counsellors say that elderly people in one of the county's most deprived areas desperately need help to tackle debt, benefits, and housing problems.

Thanet has long been known as the poor relation to much of the rest of Kent.

Now the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) has compiled a worrying report detailing just how bad things are in the coastal region – and it's the isle's older residents most at risk.

The CAB said there is a worrying level of deprivation among isolated older people in rural areas of east Kent, and more advice provision for older people was vital.

In just two years, more than 1,500 older people have sought help from Thanet Citizens Advice's Rural East Kent 50 Plus Advice Service.

As more and more face threat of tumbling beneath the poverty line, the housing and finance advice service dedicated to the over 50s living in small towns and villages, found massive demand, and said it was only able to scratch the surface of the dire problems they face.

A shocking two-fifths were not getting welfare benefits they were entitled to, but many were now getting £2,700 a year more with CAB help.

The Rural East Kent 50 Plus Advice Service was also able to switch fuel tariffs for many,



MONEY'S TOO TIGHT TO MENTION:

In just two years more than 1,500 older people have sought advice from the Rural East Kent 50 Plus Advice Service

saving a similar £2,700.

And after getting more support, 72 per cent of older people felt their confidence had improved in dealing with money matters.

But the service is run by just four part-time benefits and debt advisers, and one part-time housing adviser.

It provides advice on debts including rent and

mortgage payment problems; bank loans and overdrafts; fuel poverty and energy bills; water and utility bills; and council tax bills.

However, staff believe they are not reaching enough of those who need help.

Janice Dadds, project co-ordinator for the service, said: "It's easy to imagine Kent's small towns and villages are home to prosperous older people

who have comfortable properties and surplus money to allow them to enjoy later life.

"However, the high demand for support from this service in tackling debts, housing issues, and making claims for welfare benefits demonstrates the poverty many older people are enduring.

"The challenge is to ensure older people living in rural isolation have much easier access to advice about benefits, debt and housing.

"The consequences of not providing support are very real threats of homelessness, living in cold houses, excessive and unmanageable debts, and legal action against vulnerable older people."

The report concludes the service will have helped 3,000 by next March, when it is due to end.

It says: "This is a need which will continue to increase as the older population in Kent becomes much larger. The anticipated increase in the Kent population in the age group of over 50s is set to rise from 36 per cent in 2007, to 44 per cent by 2026.

"In addition, the challenging economic climate and the Government's welfare reforms are likely to impact negatively upon the living standards of many older people living in rural east Kent who will, in greater numbers, begin to seek advice about benefits, debt and housing matters."

The report stresses older people must be made more aware of the services and support available, and shown how to save fuel costs.



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POLICE

Ukip unveils 'giant-killer' candidate in its bid to land crime commissioner job

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE UK Independence Party has unveiled its candidate in the race to be the county's most powerful figure in the fight against crime.

Piers Wauchope made national headlines when he defeated Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Conservative leader Bob Atwood in the May local elections.

It proved to be one of Ukip's most memorable ballot box victories, topping a popular local figure and leader of the traditionally true blue Tory stronghold.

Now Cllr Wauchope has been unveiled as the party's candidate for the November elections.

And the chances are he will know just how to appeal to uncertain Tory voters; just as he did when springing a surprise in the Rusthall ward. For eight years he was a Conservative councillor in Camden, and stood in the 2005 General Election as a Tory for the Hampstead and Highgate seat. He narrowed the gap but still lost out to Labour's Glenda Jackson.



POPULAR: Piers Wauchope toppled the Tunbridge Wells Tory leader

He will go head-to-head with the likes of Tory Craig Mackinlay and Labour's Harriet Yeo, in addition to independent candidates such as Ann Barnes.

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner replaces the Kent Police Authority - and oversees Kent Police, with the power to hire and fire the Chief Constable.

Cllr Wauchope, 55, who has worked as a criminal barrister for

27 years, said: "Over the years I have worked in fighting crime with police officers from over twelve different forces; and am easily the best qualified of all the candidates named so far.

"My policies are consistent with the common sense policies of Ukip and the people of Kent who have repeatedly said they want to see more police on the streets and tougher action to deal with anti so-

cial behaviour.

"My experience as a barrister has confirmed my beliefs that the police need to spend more time preventing and investigating real crimes and there needs to be an effective plan to stop reoffending amongst youths and young adults."

Kent MEP and Ukip leader Nigel Farage said that Cllr Wauchope was "an excellent candidate and one who has my total support in his campaign".

He pledged to take to the streets of the county in support of his candidate.

Ukip are being backed by many to spring a surprise in the elections. While arguments over voting for a political candidate rage on, the smart money is on disillusioned Tory voters opting instead for the Euro-sceptic Ukip, with a view that it shares its traditional toughline on crime.

The victor, however, will be the one who manages to mobilise and motivate their vote. So far public awareness of the election has been extremely low and experts say they expect one of the lowest ever turn-

THE ROLE

What is the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)?

It replaces the existing Kent Police Authority which oversees the running of Kent Police, determining budgets and hiring the Chief Constable. It will be wound down in November and replaced with the elected position of a single Kent Police & Crime Commissioner, who will carry out a similar role, but be more accountable to the public.

Who gets to vote for the Kent PCC?

Everyone who is eligible to vote. Each county will go to the polls on November 15 to elect a figure.

Who are the candidates?

The main political parties are putting up candidates, in addition to a number of independents. These include: Craig Mackinlay (Con), Harriet Yeo (Lab), Piers Wauchope (Ukip), Steve Uncles (English Democrats) Ann Barnes (Ind), Dai Liyanage (Ind), Fergus Wilson (Ind) and Ken Little (Ind).

Why should I care?

Because whoever is elected will be one of the most powerful influences on how the police patrol our streets and fight crime in the county. Among the issues at the heart of the debate are whether the elected representative would look to privatise parts of the police force by hiring external organisations to take over certain roles and the issue of having a political figure in charge, as well as combating some of the most savage cuts to the force enforced by central Government cut-backs.

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News

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Schoolboy joins the 999 heroes as fire awards honour acts of bravery

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FIREFIGHTERS who saved the life of a trucker caught up in a blazing smash were just two of the heroes recognised at the annual Kent Fire and Rescue Service awards.

Borough Green firefighters Carl Eden and Craig Pattison received certificates of congratulation for their actions.

A lorry driver suffered a heart attack following a lorry fire in March, on the M20.

Putting their own lives at risk from motorway traffic to reach the man, the pair carried out CPR and used a defibrillator to resuscitate him.

A much younger real-life hero was Robert Noubine, 12, who rescued his disabled 22-year-old brother from a fire last November.

After discovering flames in his Dartford home, Robert sounded the alarm, closed internal doors to prevent the fire spreading and alerted his mother. He then helped his brother out of bed, into his shower chair, covered him in duvets and wheeled him out of their home.

As fire crews arrived Robert gave them clear, calm advice on the blaze.

Community Engagement Officer Paul Stanbridge received recognition for the compassion and support he showed an elderly couple when he realised during a routine visit that they needed assistance, and stayed until it arrived.

And fellow Community Safety Administration Officer Amanda Fraser also got a certificate of congratulation for supporting the growth of KFRS's Vulnerable Persons Team.

There were many other certificates of congratulations handed out.

Off-duty Cranbrook crew manager Andy Parks, provided first aid assistance at a road crash in Goudhurst Road, Cranbrook, in May, after two people were hurt in an overturned car.

Also off duty at the time, Aldington firefighter Will Parkinson helped save the life of an 11-month-old baby who suffered a fit, at Bonning-

ton village fête in June. He kept little Keira Archbold stabilised until paramedics arrived and she made a full recovery.

Care worker Mary Patterson rescued an elderly client with dementia from a Tenterden bungalow fire in April.

Control room worker Hannah Park was still in training when she took a 999 call from a 15-year-old girl trapped in a top-floor bedroom of her smoke-filled three-storey home in Blackball Road, Ashford. Hannah provided vital fire safety advice and gained essential information to guide fire crews to the teenager.

Off-duty Teynham firefighter Ben Corello, rushed to the aid of a man hit by a car in Milton Regis in April, and kept the man's cervical spine immobilised, talking to him and keeping him calm despite suffering facial injuries and losing a lot of blood.

Eight members of Thames Side's Red Watch were honoured for saving a man trying to jump from a Gravesend railway bridge. Firefighter Ross Allen attached a line from the fire engine around his chest, climbed over the railings and stood on a ledge on the side of the bridge. Ross supported the man around his waist, holding him until his colleagues could lift him to safety.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals went to Ramsgate Crew Manager Paul Cook; Whitstable Watch Manager Nick Salt; Fire Safety Engineer Andrew Strand; Larkfield Watch Manager Mitchell Kelly; Control Room Operator Caroline Spicer; and Lin West from SM Projects.

KFRS chief executive Ann Millington, together with Lord Lieutenant for Kent Lord De L'Isle, and chairman of Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, Bryan Cope, presented the awards.

Ms Millington said: "This event gives us the opportunity to recognise the bravery and quick thinking of our staff and local people and it also reminds us of all the positive work going on around us. I would like to express my thanks, not just to them, but also to all the staff at KFRS for their dedication and hard work."



SAVIOUR: Borough Green firefighter Craig Pattison (centre) gets his award from Ann Millington and Bryan Cope at the KFRS awards

CHARITY

Win for bee team

THE Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £77,200 to the Bumblebee Alliance, in Aylesham near Canterbury, for its Bee Inspired project. It will see 230 young people with disabilities and learning difficulties discover about bees, and share their knowledge around Kent.

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COUNTRYSIDE

Heavy rain and flooding helps foreign invaders to take over

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE wet weather earlier this year has created an extra danger around Kent's river banks – a mass invasion of hogweed that can cause painful blistering if it touches the skin.

Kent County Council is concerned the plant is taking over some stretches of riverbank, and has launched a massive fight back.

Officials said bad weather can cause flooding which in turn increases the spread of seeds from plants such as giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam – spreading it further up banks and inland.

Heavy rain can also break up the leaves and stems of Japanese knotweed, potentially increasing the spread of new plants.

A County Hall spokesman said: "The rain also slows the rate of treatment too, as we can't chemically spray plants in bad weather, and that was an issue this summer."

Its Medway Valley Countryside Partnership is working to tackle the invaders which are destroying native plants.

Giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed were introduced to ornamental gardens and estates in the early 19th century – and have been spreading ever since.

With its large flowerheads and wide leaves, giant hogweed lives up to its name and can reach heights of around 20ft. It may seem perfectly harmless, but it can badly burn



and blister the skin if touched.

Japanese knotweed has a bamboo-like appearance with white flowers and shovel-shaped leaves. Astonishingly, it can grow up to 10cm a day and spread by just tiny parts of the plants being broken off and discarded. Therefore it is illegal to irresponsibly dispose of the plants without first seeking professional advice.

It is even illegal for landowners to ignore it. The plant causes erosion as it spreads across large areas, destroying other plants and habitats.

The MVCP's project to treat the problem now covers more than 150 miles of riverside and by liaising with dozens of landowners, around 20,000 giant hogweed plants and dozens of masses of Japanese knotweed are treated every year.

Viscount De L'Isle, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, owns Penshurst Place Estate, which is one of the sites where Japanese knotweed has been identified.

He said: "Everyone needs to be more aware of the invasive

effect of these plants on the landscape and support organisations like Medway Valley Countryside Partnership in eliminating these extremely destructive species."

The Environment Agency has given additional funds to the MVCP to treat all the invasive plants on the Penshurst Place Estate and some other private gardens in the Penshurst area. This blanket approach on the eradication of Japanese knotweed will begin the reduction and eventual removal in this area.

KCC's head of countryside access Mike Overbeke said: "Many people will have seen these plants growing in Kent's countryside unaware of the problems they cause and the cost involved in tackling them."

"While they are ultimately the responsibility of landowners, we want to make sure all who enjoy exploring Kent's countryside stay alert to the risks too. It needs to be a collective effort to eradicate these species from our riverways."

SPREAD: Japanese knotweed has to be carefully disposed of

CRIME

Little red Corvette is stolen

POLICE are appealing for information after a rare go-cart was stolen from the Ashford area

The red Corvette fibre glass go-cart was taken from an outbuilding at a house some time between 6pm on September 7 and 10am on

September 11.

The go-cart measures around 6ft by 3ft and is powered by a small petrol engine. Police say it is an extremely rare collectable and only available as an import from the USA.

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News

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HERITAGE

Punch and Judy shows thrive, despite seaside crowds' closed wallets

By Dean Kilpatrick

dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

PUNCH and Judy shows are more popular than ever, according to puppeteers celebrating the 350th anniversary of the children's entertainment.

However, the traditional sound of "he's behind you" on Kent's beaches is becoming a distant memory as crowds refuse to pay up as the final curtain falls.

Broadstairs is the only seaside town in the county to host a summertime Punch and Judy show on its beach.

John Alexander, who performed Punch and Judy shows on the Thanet beach for 10 years before he retired, said the custom was dying on Britain's coastline and Broadstairs was showing others "that's the way you do it".

He said: "There are only four shows left on Britain's beaches, and it's a real credit to Broadstairs they are supporting it and will continue to have one."

"The public think the council should pay, and when you go out with a hat, people with £700 cameras round their neck say they have nothing on them."

However, despite the reluctance from some to cough up a contribution after the performance, children and adults alike are still chuckling at performers across the country.

The traditional slapstick story surrounds the character of Punch looking after a baby for his wife Judy.



STANDING ROOM ONLY: Puppeteer Miles Phillips refutes claims show is too violent

When Judy spots Punch hitting the child to stop it from crying, a fight between the pair takes place – leading to criticisms that the show promotes domestic violence to young children.

Punch and Judy puppeteers are still regularly hired to perform at fêtes and children's parties, seeing the traditional 18th century performance brought into the 21st century.

Terry Herbert from West Kingsdown, Seven-oaks, has been performing since the age of 14 and said a bit of modernisation has kept the traditional entertainment alive today.

He said: "It's probably more popular than it has ever been because of the 350th anniversary."

"It's the oldest puppet show in the world and I think this year was one of the very best because of the Diamond Jubilee."

The show has come under criticism over the years, with some calling the show too violent for children and out-of-date.

But Faversham puppeteer Miles Phillips has spoken out to defend the nature of Punch and Judy shows.

Mr Phillips, who has been performing for 30 years, said: "You had one or two people having a

go about it, but children see more violence on the 6 o'clock news than you do at a Punch and Judy show."

"It's certainly very popular, and the children love it."

"It's been here for 350 years and its going to be here for a good few years to come."

ARMED FORCES

'Guardian angel' soldier killed in Afghanistan

A SOLDIER born in Tunbridge Wells has been killed in Afghanistan.

Captain James Anthony Townley from the Corps of Royal Engineers died on September 21 in Camp Bastion, Helmand province.

The 29-year-old died from wounds sustained while serving at Forward Operating Base Shawqat.

Capt Townley was born in Tunbridge Wells and grew up near Glastonbury in Somerset. An avid sportsman, he leaves

behind his parents Peter and Jacqui, his brother Nick, and girlfriend Helen.

His family said: "James was a wonderful, loving and caring son and brother. He was devoted to his girlfriend, Helen. He was our guardian angel and our hero."

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News

COMPETITION

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For fashion lovers who can't resist the allure of designer labels, but equally want to stretch their shopping budget to the max, McArthurGlen's Designer Outlet Fashion Month is the diary date for them.

Celebrating the thrill of seeking out designer labels for less, September, 2012, sees the launch of the UK's first-ever Designer Outlet Fashion Month at McArthurGlen Ashford (www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com) as part of a nationwide campaign fronted by Laura Bailey, singer/songwriter Delilah, and fashion blogger Sandra from Sinchandup.

For more information about McArthurGlen's Designer Outlet Fashion Month, please www.mcarthurglen.com/dofm. Follow the conversation at #fashionfinds.

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To enter text KOS followed by MCARTHURGLEN and your answer then your first name, surname address and postcode to 80058, eg, KOS MCARTHURGLEN C JOHN SMITH 2 THE STREET, TOWN, DV2 2GT. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate.

Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final.

Usual terms and conditions apply.

Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of October 9, 2012, your entry will not be valid, but you still may be charged. SMS services are provided by Velti DR Ltd, SE1 8ND, telephone 020 7633 5020.

Alternatively enter by post to McArthurGlen Fashion Month Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS.



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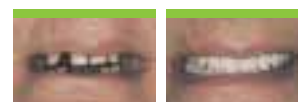
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INDUSTRY

Major brewers are left bitter as tax breaks aid rise of microbreweries

By Dean Kilpatrick

dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

LARGE breweries could create more jobs if they received government tax breaks like their smaller competitors, according to the chief executive of Kent's biggest brewery.

Shepherd Neame boss Jonathan Neame believes the increasing numbers of microbreweries based in Kent is a sign of government help, while larger breweries face bigger Inland Revenue bills.

Microbreweries are benefiting from a progressive beer duty introduced by Gordon Brown in 2002, which offers a 50 per cent tax break to businesses manufacturing between 5,000 and 20,000 hectolitres per year.

More than 25 microbreweries now operate in the county, thanks to the growing popularity of locally brewed specialist ales.

However, despite welcoming the increase of breweries in Kent, Mr Neame said his business is not able to continue to expand because of the company's tax bill.

He said: "The only caveat we have is that the Government is trying to invest in small traders by giving them tax breaks. We also want investment and to create employment.

"Large breweries are paying twice as much tax as small breweries and what is happening is living proof of what can happen if the Government invests in a sector.

"It proves the point that if the Government invests in a trade as they have done for small breweries, you can get a huge explosion in investment and job creation in the trade.

"We want to invest in pubs, we would invest more in trading and we would create jobs which would benefit Kent."

Faversham brewer Shepherd Neame's tax bill has increased by 42 per cent in the last four years, and the company would like to benefit from the tax breaks microbreweries receive.

However, Mr Neame said it was an exciting time for the industry with a number of breweries setting up shop in the county and producing ale.

Ramsgate Brewery was formed 10 years ago, and is regularly approached by entrepreneurs who want to start microbreweries in Kent.

Director Lois Gadd believes there has been a



BOTTOMS UP: Sheps' Jonathan Neame says microbrewers benefit from Government tax breaks

shift towards local produce in the last couple of years, with microbreweries benefiting from this trend.

She said: "The consumer wants to know things have been produced in a suitable way. That's not particular to breweries, but it has worked really well for us.

"We have a lot of people discovering real ale – there's a lot more women drinking ale, more young people – and there's a lot more real ale being produced, so I think it will remain a strong industry."

And this increase in popularity is seeing a surge in business, with Nelson Brewers in Chatham reporting a 25 per cent increase in turnover.

Owner Piers MacDonald said: "I think there is a good feeling of local produce because ale production and food is doing well. Competition can only be a good thing for our business, and we can only see the industry growing."

Last Saturday, Larkins brewery in Edenbridge won a coveted Camra (Campaign for Real Ale) award for the quality of its beer.

BUSINESS

Summer tourism boost

BUSINESSES are celebrating after a triumphant summer season with a surge of people visiting Thanet. The Margate visitor information centre saw a 25 per cent increase in July and August compared to last year, and a website promoting Thanet received record visits online. The 200th birthdays of Dickens and Pugin is believed to have increased interest from tourists. Cllr Iris Johnston said there was now a "feel-good factor" across the Isle. She added: "Those who run our local attractions have set a wonderful example."

ACCIDENT

Car crash kills woman

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after the passenger in a car which smashed into the back of a recovery lorry died. The crash happened on the A28 at Godmersham near Ashford at 3.35pm last Saturday. Three vehicles were involved in the collision – a Renault recovery lorry, a Ford Transit van, and a Suzuki Wagon. The male driver and a female passenger of the Suzuki were from the Folkestone area. Both were taken to the William Harvey Hospital, but the woman died later that evening.

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News

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CONSERVATION

Trust seeks vital funds to save ancient fenland for rare wildlife

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A WILDLIFE charity is appealing for help to raise vital funds to ensure a future for Kent's last remaining ancient fenland.

The Ham Fen nature reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, near Sandwich, was at risk of being lost forever until Kent Wildlife Trust used a pioneering scheme involving beavers to rescue the precious land.

But now the Trust is hoping to try and raise £58,000 to extend the site in a bid to ensure the survival of even more rare species living in the area.

The land is a type of wetland helping to store floodwater while creating a habitat for wildlife.

In 1991, the Trust took over the fenland where only half a hectare remained, with most of it scrubbed over and the surrounding land drained and converted to pasture.

They introduced a family of beavers as a conservation tool, using the animal's ability to harvest trees and plants, raise the water table with dams and enrich the wetland habitat, which supports the survival of rare species including water vole, reed bunting, and wetland birds.

The reserve has since begun to thrive and the beaver have bred for a fourth successive year.

The Trust's reserves officer John McAllister said they now wanted to extend the protected site. This section will need to be leased from a landowner.

"Under our stewardship and the continued success of the beaver, Ham Fen is flourishing and we now have the opportunity to increase the 72 acres by a third," he said.

"To do this, we are aiming to raise £58,000 from our generous supporters.

"This important conservation project will extend the fenland, providing greater opportunity for wildlife to thrive, for the fen to become ecologically more viable and to increase the chances of survival for rare species dependent upon this scarce habitat."

■ Donations can be made at www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/ham-fen or by calling 01622 662012.



AT HOME: Beavers have helped Ham Fen flourish

Pictures: KENT WILDLIFE TRUST



GROWTH: Ham Fen, near Sandwich, is Kent's last remaining fenland

CRIME

Suspended sentence for meat thief

A MEAT thief has received a suspended prison sentence. Wesley Glenn Gurney, 35, of Cornwallis Circle, Whitstable, was sentenced at Canterbury and St Augustine Magistrates' Court after he pleaded guilty to two counts of criminal damage and two counts of shoplifting.

On September 5 and 6 Gurney stole meat of an unknown value from a supermarket in Kingsmead

Road, Canterbury.

And on September 17 Gurney damaged a security tag belonging to a store in Sturry Road, Canterbury.

The same day he caused £34.99 worth of damage to a cardigan in a shop in Sturry Road, Canterbury.

Magistrates sentenced him to 100 days in prison, suspended for six months. He must also pay £100 in compensation.

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News

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CRIME

Pair are convicted in 'landmark' case after smuggling legal drugs

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IN WHAT is being hailed a "landmark" case, two men who smuggled legal drugs in to Dover have been successfully prosecuted after a court was told the paracetamol and caffeine were likely to be used as cutting agents for heroin.

Anthony Woodford, 23, of Lascelles Avenue, Harlow, and David Lewinson, 44, of West Hendon Broadway, Collindale, Hendon, both stood trial after Lewinson was found in possession of 150kgs of paracetamol and caffeine at the Port of Dover on April 21, last year.

Canterbury Crown Court was told investigators believed they would be used as a cutting agent for heroin, to make it go further and increase profit, bringing in something around £5 million for drug dealers.

Officers from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate launched an investigation which identified Woodford as the organiser of the trip.

Afterwards, Det Sgt Mat Scott of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: "This is the first time in the UK that a successful prosecution has been made when the drug found has not itself been an illegal substance.

"The prosecution was able to prove, beyond doubt, that the huge quantity of paracetamol and caffeine was intended to be used to cut with heroin.

This has been a successful test case and therefore has set a precedent for this type of offence."

On April 20, last year, a white Volkswagen Caddy van travelled from Dover Eastern Docks to Dunkirk on a Norfolk-lane ferry.

The van, driven by Lewison, returned to the UK the following day.

A quantity of ground powder was discovered and later tests confirmed it to be 150kgs of the apparent cutting agent.

Following an investigation by officers from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, Woodford was arrested.

Both men were charged in February for an offence under the Serious Crime Act 2007 and they will be sentenced on October 19.

The charge said they imported a quantity of caffeine and paracetamol, which was capable of encouraging or assisting the supply of a controlled drug of Class A, namely diamorphine to another, intending to encourage or assist in committing a crime.

■ For more news and sport visit www.yourdover.co.uk.

BUSINESS

Victoria hotel sold

AN 18th century Tunbridge Wells hotel – famed as a retreat of Queen Victoria – has changed hands in a move thought to run into seven figures. The Royal Wells Hotel on Mount Ephraim, along with its pub, the Beau Nash Tavern, have been sold to Faversham brewery Shepherd Neame for an undisclosed sum. Queen Victoria made frequent visits to the hotel in the early part of the 19th century, and later granted it the use of her coat of arms. It remains displayed at the top of building.

CHARITY

Charity drive kicks off

KENT Football Association is to support Kent Air Ambulance for the 2012-13 season by naming a shield in the charity's honour. Clubs playing in the historic Intermediate Challenge Shield raised £1,000 for the Marden-based helicopter last year. The competition comprised 38 teams from Kent County Football League and the Kent Invicta Football League. Kent FA will hold the competition in the charity's honour for the second season with each club taking part collecting funds from players and supporters.

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SPORT

Footballer's international career kicks off with the help of homeless charity

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOLLOWING the success of women's football at the London Olympics, the sport is enjoying unprecedented success at all levels.

And that includes the Homeless World Cup, where one Kent player will be in the England squad.

Striker Rosie Martin, 18, is currently staying at a Canterbury hostel run by homelessness charity Porchlight.

But next month, she will be in Mexico for the international event playing in the England women's team.

It runs from October 6-14 in Mexico City, and Rosie can't wait to take part following her battle to turn her life around. She has even started a course in health and social care at Canterbury College and is beginning to rebuild relationships with her family.

The annual football tournament unites teams of homeless people from countries all around the globe. Rosie will be joining seven other young homeless women from across the country to compete against 13 other national teams.

Personal struggles take a terrible toll on young people, and Rosie revealed her mental health deteriorated so much she attempted suicide twice.

She said: "I self-harmed on a daily basis and tried to commit suicide twice before I was read-



SPORTSWOMAN: Rosie Martin

mitted to hospital. My parents said they wouldn't feel comfortable taking me back home after that. The hospital suggested Porchlight and I applied for a place in one of the charity's young persons' hostels. "Luckily, I was accepted."

"The accommodation has given me something stable to build from and the support has been amazing. It has meant I have stopped self-harming altogether. I couldn't do it by myself; I needed someone fighting my corner."

Since turning things around, her confidence has blossomed and she became dedicated to the regular football training sessions run by the Homeless Football Association.

Rosie impressed the selection committee so much, they offered her a place in the squad.

This year is the first time England enters both a men's and a women's team in the tournament.

With just weeks to go, Rosie said: "I doubt I'll ever have an opportunity like this again. I have already met lots of new people at the training sessions and enjoyed tours of Arsenal and Manchester United's stadiums. I even got to meet England player Fara Williams."

A total of 30 female players were selected to attend training centres at Everton, West Bromwich Albion Ladies, and Arsenal, each earning an FA Junior Leaders Award at the end of it. The players then attended a national Team England Day hosted by Manchester United where the Team England squads were selected.

Richard Barnard, activities co-ordinator at Porchlight, runs regular football training sessions at the charity.

He said: "I am so proud of what Rosie has achieved. Sport has always been an excellent way to encourage vulnerable people to change their lives for the better. It gives individuals the confidence and skills to move forward positively. What could be more positive than playing for your country?"

The Homeless FA will continue training with Rosie on and off the pitch in Mexico, focusing on increasing her self-confidence and leadership skills.

■ For more information on the charity visit www.porchlight.org.uk or see www.homelessworldcup.org to find out about the Homeless World Cup.



TEAM ENGLAND: Rosie, top row, third from left, joins seven other homeless women from the country

Picture: HOMELESS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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KENT REMEMBERED



CONTEMPLATION: The author Charles Dickens in his much-loved Gad's Hill study in Rochester

Changing city inspired Dickens to new heights

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AUTHOR Charles Dickens is widely regarded as one of the sharpest observers of life to ever put pen to paper.

His much-loved Rochester and the 19th century north Kent countryside with its marshes and remote churches are as much a part of his books as any of the memorable characters which come alive in the pages of classics such as *Great Expectations*.

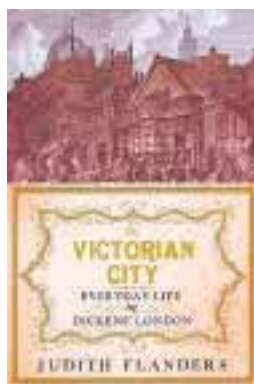
In a new work best-selling author Judith Flanders has put together what one critic called "an intoxicating blend of London, life and literature" to examine the influence of the capital city on an outstanding Kent literary figure.

The Victorian City, *Everyday Life in Dickens' London* is the title of the work which has been published by Atlantic Books – but as with any account of the great writer's life – the county he spent so much of his life looms large.

The 19th century was a time of transformation in Britain and while in the countryside it might appear little was changing, larger towns were seeing the results of the industrial revolution.

But nowhere was this more apparent than on the streets of the capital of the British Empire.

In only a few decades, London grew from a Regency town to the biggest city the world had ever seen, with more than 6.5 million people and railways, street-lighting and new



AUTHOR: Judith Flanders' book buildings at every turn.

The book explores London's outdoors in a portrait of everyday life on the streets.

From the moment Dickens arrived in the city in 1822, from his earlier home in Chatham, he obsessively walked its streets, recording the everyday struggle for survival which was the state of many of its inhabitants, the unusual sights he encountered, as well as the cruelties which marred so many lives.

Flanders leads her readers through the markets, transport systems, sewers, rivers, slums, cemeteries, gin palaces, chop-houses and entertainment of Dickens' London, to reveal the Victorian capital in all its variety, vibrancy, and squalor.

From the colourful cries of street-sellers to the uncomfortable reality of travel by omnibus, via the many uses for the body parts of dead horses or the unimaginably gruelling work-

ing days of hawker children, the book casts light on the darkest parts of the day and age – as well as its splendours.

Key moments in time are revisited, including the funeral of the Duke of Wellington which took place in 1852, following the victor of Waterloo's death at Walmer Castle, where he lived quietly in his later years.

Long forgotten rivers are also a feature of the book.

Pubs and inns were also a staple of the leisure lives of the Victorian population, with many sited along the River Thames.

Several popular haunts were along the waterfront at Gravesend, and the book tells how steamers left London Bridge and moored up at the town.

It also has an account of a trip to Sheerness, undertaken in the late 1860s by a journalist named James Richie on board the vessel *Princess Alice*.

"They left London Bridge at 10.30 and as they went down-river everyone had 'a good dinner on board' supplemented by tea and shrimps later," writes Flanders.

"Richie (who had a temperance streak) disapproved of the 'unnecessary demand for beer' and judged that 'smoking may be carried to excess'."

The excursion gave the opportunity for "700 or 800" to spend 90 minutes in Sheerness before a return to London with music and dancing.

The book also records as a footnote than on a similar trip the *Princess Alice* foundered and sank, killing 650 people and injuring 200.

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OPINION

Optimistic over care challenges

Cllr Graham Gibbens, Kent County Council's cabinet member for adult social care, on the £18 million cuts facing his department

THERE is no doubt taking £18million from the adult social care budget is a big challenge.

While the savings planned at Kent County Council are both serious and significant, they are part of a change that makes me genuinely optimistic for the future of care in Kent.

We know demand for adult social care is increasing quickly, particularly when it comes to dementia.

Expectations are also rising and there is no quick fix.

We can respond, however, with a creative and innovative approach. This gives us a chance to design a system that meets a wide range of needs and is both effective and sustainable, while costing less.

We are in no way blasé about what needs to be done.

The truth is that without significant, wholesale change, KCC's responsibility for older people will effectively take over most of the council's budget in

years to come. At the same time, we face the reality of having less money for this care and support. Taking a bit from here and a bit from there will not be enough – so bold thinking is required.

We've looked to those who use adult social care and their carers to understand better what changes they want. We've listened and shared ideas with the voluntary and community sector, with private care providers and with our health partners, and many others.

The conclusion is that we need to give priority to greater integration of health and social care services, and to preventative services.

We also need to keep investing in enablement – the intensive social care that helps people regain lost independence.

Finally, it is crucial to protect those services that exist so that people have support for living at home and as part

of their community.

To make these things happen, I believe it is vital we play to the strengths of all those carers, NHS teams, voluntary groups and businesses that are involved in adult social care.

Most of our money is spent through domiciliary care and residential care organisations that are trusted to provide services on our behalf. However, we haven't often given them the opportunity to direct and advise us about working together more effectively.

Where a domiciliary carer can see that an older person might become less dependent, we should be able to let them be part of the decision-making process, as they are on the ground. This could save money in the long term, while encouraging independence in more situations.

Similarly, if someone enters the social care system, they should not automatically stay



6699

This kind of change means changing the way we work, bringing savings and benefits

in the system for the rest of their lives. Instead, there should be the support they need to regain their independence.

This kind of change means changing the way we work, bringing savings and benefits through less waiting time and fewer visits. Importantly, it could also help slow the growth of costly home care packages, which happen as people become more dependent.

We also need to help people to stay out of the system – not so that we stop offering support, but so we are really in the business of helping people live independently by tackling issues early, focusing on prevention to keep people from being sucked into dependence.

No-one at KCC underestimates the scale of what we are doing – it has taken time to look critically at our system and see how best to change it.

I do believe, however, we are creating something better.

KOS COMMENT

DNA debate: Why we need to be engaged

THE debate over the use of DNA is not one which is likely to fade fast – especially after an expert this week called for all newborn babies to be swabbed in order to provide a comprehensive database to use in the fight against crime.

Many will say it makes perfect sense. After all, if you've done nothing wrong, just what have you to be afraid of the authorities have your unique biological code on file? But there will be an equal number who see it as a potential threat to our personal liberties.

But the debate is one we must all face – and will no doubt again as scientific advances make it even easier to identify criminals by the clues they leave behind. We should all give it consideration.

Thanks for the music

FEW would have expected the county's biggest music festival to be the latest victim of the economy, but it would seem the Hop Farm Festival is teetering on the brink.

It's loss will be mourned – it put Kent on the music map and when it got it right, hit the high notes.



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Lorry levy cash a pipe dream

I THINK some Kent County Council councillors have shown a political naivety if they ever thought they would see any of the revenue collected from a foreign lorry tax.

All they have achieved is putting prices up for us (as any increased costs will be passed to the end consumer), plus another level of bureaucracy.

As trucks pass from Kent into Essex, Surrey etc, will those councils not also want a slice of the generated revenue?

Who will decide this? With an estimated start-up revenue of £23 million, in the real world how much of this money will actually go to road maintenance?

Some might dribble down for trendy 'halo' traffic schemes, but this is not much help to the majority of motorists as we crash from pothole to pothole.

All that has been achieved is to create a new revenue stream for the Treasury.

Cllr Brian Sweetland may complain about the mess left behind by truck drivers (not always unfounded) and parking of trucks in unsuitable places, but do the foreign drivers always have a choice?

Various governments have laid down stringent driving regulations, but have not supplied the parking and the facilities to meet the legislation.

With a policy of closing public toilets, it is bad enough trying to find one that is open (yes, I might want to go at night) and how many have parking spaces for a 40-tonne lorry Cllr Sweetland?

Terry Hudson, Swalecliffe

Tax all visitors to our country

A TAX on foreign lorries when entering Britain is about time, but this does not help Kent taxpayers – most lorries use

Dover port or are stacked on the M20.

How about employing more staff or specialist equipment at the port with this 'new' money?

Also, the Government should charge all visitors a visa fee to enter the UK – say a £10 or £20. This would have the effect of allowing British passport holders to go through UK lanes while non-UK passport holders would have to pay the fee via other lanes without any perceived discrimination, exactly as the USA and other countries do.

The fee would allow new staff to be employed at airports to check all visitors to the UK including students, business personal, etc, have a valid insurance cover or a bond from their host families while visiting if they need NHS treatment that is not free to them.

If they do not have a bond or insurance visitors get a leaflet (in English) to advise them of our rules on NHS treatment.

Of course, all NHS trusts,

doctors' surgeries, etc, must enforce this new rule even if they have to pay a person to police it. It is cheaper than the system installed now that is totally inept and is picked up by you and me.

Ken Little, Stanfield

Badger cull is just madness

TIME is fast running out for badgers in Kent.

I am dismayed to see the Tory-led Government is ploughing ahead with plans to begin a cull by issuing licences to shoot badgers.

Cattle TB (tuberculosis) is a blight on livestock and farmers that must be tackled, but this is a plan which will not work.

An iconic British animal will be slaughtered for no good purpose.

A 10-year scientific study on TB and badgers concluded a cull "would not only fail to achieve a beneficial effect, but would entail a substantial risk

of increasing the incidence of cattle TB and spreading the disease". In short, it could make things worse

It was for that reason Labour ruled out a cull when in office.

A cull didn't make sense then and it doesn't make sense now. The Government should abandon this barmy idea and concentrate efforts on a comprehensive vaccination plan.

Peter Skinner, MEP for the South East

Plan early and rest a bit easier

RE: LAST week's KoS comment on 'Worrying cost of the final farewell'.

I read this comment with some interest as I work within the funeral profession. It is, as you suggest, becoming more expensive to say a fond farewell when a loved one dies.

Indeed, taxes and death are two certainties of this life.

Many people today chose to

plan and pre-pay for their funeral, the cost can be met by a one-off payment or by paying in instalments (which can be useful for those on limited incomes).

Funeral planning is nothing new; remember Tutankhamun – as soon as he was born courtiers planned for his death.

A funeral pre-payment plan is a secure way of paying for your funeral in advance.

If this option is not one that would wish to be taken advantage of then at the time of death a simple funeral can be obtained from your chosen funeral director. All members of the funeral profession trade associations, NAFD and SAIF, are required to provide a simple service for those that wish for it or, if costs should be an issue.

I also think it worth pointing out the cost of a funeral is made up of many different components: cremation/burial fees, possible doctors fees' (for cremation), possibly a minister or celebrant, as well as funeral director's fees for his services.

Help with funeral costs can be obtained by application to the Department of Work and Pensions if one is in receipt of certain benefits.

What I think needs to borne in mind is that the public have a choice as with everything in life, there is also multiple choice over what sort of funeral one has upon death and those choices equal costs.

Janice Kirby MBIFD, MCF, regional development manager for funeral planning services

Video to keep the spirit alive

IN THE wake of the Paralympics, I urged your readers not to forget about the many challenges facing people with disabilities in their daily lives.

They confront their own personal hurdles each and every day, and their quiet heroics in overcoming adversity get scant recognition.

I work for Vitalise, a charity that provides desperately-needed respite breaks for people with disabilities and those who care for them.

I'd like to invite your readers to view our video and help us keep the Paralympic flame burning a little longer in our hearts. You can view the video on our website www.vitalise.org.uk.

Colin Brook, Vitalise

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



Don't suffer pitfalls of early pension release

Q AFTER replying to an advertisement in a financial magazine, I was called by a firm that arranges the early release of money tied up in a pension plan. The salesman explained that legal loopholes allow the withdrawal of pension money before the normal minimum age of 55. Can you say how this is possible, as it completely contradicts advice I was given by Prudential?

A THE most common loophole used by firms that advertise early pension release schemes is to transfer your British pension plan to a plan in a foreign country, as if you were perhaps intending to go abroad to work or to retire. Once your pension pot is in the offshore plan, it may be possible under the laws of the foreign country to release money to you without the same strings that apply in Britain. But this is very risky. Firms that arrange these deals charge about 25pc as their fee. If you have saved £100,000 towards retirement, £25,000 will disappear before you get your hands on a penny. And if the UK taxman decides the whole deal is bogus, you will face a tax bill of up to 55pc of the pension savings you have withdrawn. The whole set-up is not worth the high charges and the serious risk of a massive tax demand.

Q I AM one of six beneficiaries under a relative's will. For family reasons, some of us would like to make sure that our sister, who looked after our parents, inherits a larger share. I believe it is legally possible to change the will, but is there a time limit for this?

A BENEFICIARIES must all agree to any changes. You have two years to change the will under a Deed of Variation. It would be advisable to see a solicitor.

Q I BOOKED a flight to Spain, but then had to cancel because of an unexpected work commitment. I then rebooked for a later date. I had expected some kind of penalty, but the Spanish airline is refusing any refund whatsoever on the first ticket.

A YOU sent me a copy of your booking form, showing the airline's terms and conditions. It is clear that when you booked the first ticket, you chose a lower price that did not allow for any cancellation. I am afraid this means you have simply lost the price of that flight. But it is not all bad news. The ticket price includes government taxes. If you do not travel, no tax is due. Contact the airline and point this out, and you should get back about £12. Not a

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



fortune, but better than nothing.

Q I HAVE never invested in stocks and shares, but I understand that unit trusts are suitable for a beginner because they spread the risks. If so, can you suggest a unit trust that backs British companies?

A UNIT trusts put your money into a basket of shares, which is less risky than buying shares in just one company. The past year has not been the best for UK companies and their shares, but take a look at the Fidelity UK Smaller Companies Fund (0808 252 8343). As the name suggests, the fund managers try to spot up-and-coming British businesses. If you had invested £1,000 last summer, you would be showing a modest profit, with units worth about £1,070. But if you had bought your units three years ago, you would be doing very well, with an investment now worth more than £2,000.

Q MY LATE husband held shares in Regent Inns, but I cannot trace the company or find what they are worth today. Do you have any information?

A SORRY, but Regent Inns collapsed. HM Revenue & Customs officially recognises the shares as becoming worthless on December 10, 2010.

Q I MADE a complaint against my bank when it mistakenly said I was overdrawn and refused to pay direct debits that were due. The Financial Ombudsman awarded me £100 compensation a month ago but the bank has not paid.

A I STRONGLY suspect that this is simply inefficiency. Awards by the ombudsman can be enforced by the county court, and a bank that refuses to respect the ombudsman could even find that it loses its licence. Show the bank this page from the paper – and let me know what happens.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

An annuity is for life, so be sure to cash in wisely

As annuity rates continue to fall, what steps can you take to protect yourself? **ADAM AIKEN** reports

YOU have just retired and are receiving your state pension – but it is not enough to live on.

You need to access the money you have squirrelled away over the years in your private or work pension pot, and you need it to provide a regular income for the rest of your life.

This is where an annuity comes in.

An annuity – one of the most popular forms of pension – involves handing over your savings pot to an insurer, and in return you are paid a monthly income for life.

That is the easy part, though.

The trick is to know where to buy your annuity from – and what sort of deal to go for. To make things even more awkward, annuity rates have plummeted over the years, and someone retiring today will get less bang for their buck than someone who retired only a few months earlier.

So why are annuity rates falling – and what can you do to maximise the returns you will get?

Your options

The first thing to know is the different types of annuity that are available.

Some annuities start at a lower monthly level, but rise every year to keep pace with the cost of living.

Others will continue to support your husband or wife should you die first. And then there are enhanced annuities for people considered to be at greater risk of dying early.

"Annuities are usually provided by insurance companies," said Melvyn Pye, a chartered financial planner at Smith & Pinching.

"When deciding how much annuity income an insurance company will guarantee depends on a number of factors, but the key ones are your life expectancy and interest rates."

It is thanks to both of these factors that annuity rates have fallen in recent years.

Life expectancy

Over the past century, life expectancy has increased by five hours a day.

This means people born today will live on average more than six days longer than people born just a month earlier.

The reason this affects annuities is that pensions providers have to make the money they pay you last longer.

The longer they think you will live, the less they will pay you on a monthly basis.

Interest rates

The insurance company providing



DECISION TIME: Make sure you shop around for the right annuity to suit you

your annuity has to invest your money where it can guarantee itself an income, so it can then pay you. Government bonds, or 'gilts', are a favourite place for insurance companies because they pay a specific amount of interest for a fixed period of time, and are considered to be risk-free.

But the interest rate – or 'yield' – on gilts has fallen to a very low level.

The reasons for this are a little complicated, but the important thing to know is that government policy means there is little change expected for the foreseeable future.

"I would not bank on annuity rates improving to any extent over the next few years," said Mr Pye.

"When gilt prices start to fall and yields start to rise, there may be an improvement, but it is impossible to say when this will happen."

So what are the options?

You will not be able to find an annuity provider who has managed to buck the trend of falling rates, but you can maximise your returns by looking for the best deal.

"It is essential to shop around for the best annuity rate," said Mr Pye.

"You do not have to accept the annuity rate on offer from your pension provider, and in most instances there will be no charge for taking the savings you have built up and using them to buy an annuity with an alternative provider."

Mr Pye said that even after stripping out the worst offers, there could be a difference of up to 20pc between the leading deals on offer at any given time, and that made scouring the market crucial.

"Once an annuity has been set up,

it is usually impossible to change the terms in the future, so decisions about whether the annuity will also be for the benefit of a husband or wife, or whether it will increase each year, must be made at outset," he said.

Do you qualify for an enhanced annuity?

If you have suffered a serious medical condition, or if there is history of life-threatening illness in your family, you might qualify for a higher annuity rate – higher monthly payments, in other words.

Put brutally, this is because the insurance companies think you are more likely to die early, so they offer you better terms in the expectation that they will not be paying you a monthly income for too long, and they will be able to keep the remainder of the pot of cash you have built up.

Mr Pye said conditions that often led to enhanced annuities included cancer, diabetes, heart problems, lung disease, multiple sclerosis and strokes. Smokers often benefit from a higher rate – they are, after all, more likely to die early than non-smokers – and some insurance companies will make allowances for where you live, and even for your former occupation.

An ex-miner living in Glasgow is assumed to have a lower life expectancy than a retired architect living in Tunbridge Wells, for example.

This might all sound horribly morbid, but the system is what it is, so if you think you qualify for higher payments from your pension, make sure you do not sign up for an annuity until you have inquired about enhanced deals.

David Ian

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This is Folkestone... but not as we know it



By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE multi-million-pound regeneration of Folkestone harbour will be unlike any other such project undertaken in the UK, those behind the scheme are promising.

An outline planning application has been submitted to Shepway District Council for the development of the seafront. A decision is due in the spring.

It is not a detailed planning application but provides for the building of up to 1,000 houses – including some on the beach itself – together with public spaces, shops and recreational facilities. If planning permission is granted, it is envisaged development would start in the area by the Leas Lift, moving north-east along the seafront to the harbour.

No costings have been finalised, but it is expected to be in the hundreds of millions – with the cash being made available by a foundation established by philanthropist Roger de Haan, who has already ploughed £50 million into the arts-led regeneration of The Old High Street and Tontine Street areas.

Folkestone Harbour Company spokesman Peter Bettley said: "People sometimes think that because this project has been going on a long time anything is better than nothing.

"But that is not Roger's view. We are seeing a growing investment in Folkestone's future, with businesses and people relocating here, and that is partially due to the legacy of buildings left from the Victorian and Edwardian eras. So that shows looking long-term is the correct way forward.

"We want to ensure the plans put in place will ensure a sustainable future for the harbour area.

"It is also our intention to create something unlike anything seen before – with an overall cohesion but individual buildings with their own distinct architecture and features."

The application under consideration



THE VISION: Peter Bettley, of Folkestone Harbour Company, pictured, says any regeneration work has to be right. Architect's designs show, clockwise from top left, public space for recreation and leisure, beach homes and a bustling shopping area

by councillors reflects the culmination of some three years' work by leading architect practice Terry Farrell and Partners, together with a team representing the landowner, Folkestone Harbour Company, and experts in a variety of specialist disciplines.

This has included two full rounds of public consultation in spring 2010 and autumn 2011 on a range of ideas and proposals, and the results have been fed back into the planning process.

Further consultation on the submitted proposals will now be led by Shepway District Council as part of its determination of the application.

The backers say they have not modelled their ideas on any existing town or city – "not Brighton, not Amsterdam" – as they want it to be unique.

The proposals include critical factors such as environmental considerations, improvements to transport in the harbour and seafront area and acknowledging the heritage of the site. It also sets out clear ambitions for the project over the next 10 to 15 years, with the exact timetable subject to prevailing economic circumstances.

The backers say "great care" has been taken to present plans that are viable and can be delivered in a way that is

"sympathetic to Folkestone's existing built environment".

The plan is designed to enable development of the site in phases, thereby helping to manage financial exposure for potential developers.

Each of these phases will see the preparation of an individual planning application, where design of buildings will be shown in detail. The outline application establishes the overall design for the site, including the layout and extent of streets along which the development will take place, other public squares and spaces and landscaping.

The plan has provision for water-based activities, while the street scene and public spaces will incorporate restaurants, small-scale retail spaces and heritage use as well as housing.

A statement by the backers reads: "The area represents a unique opportunity to design a cohesive townscape next to the sea that blends well with its natural environment and existing heritage, but that also provides well-designed and sustainable amenities for the people who live in Folkestone and for visitors to the town."

The regeneration team admits the seafront and harbour site has been complicated to plan and will be expen-

sive to develop, with flood defences, public and private transport and demand on infrastructure all issues that need to be addressed.

The outline application envisages a range of housing units, from one-bedroom flats to larger luxury homes.

The market for these is expected to come from existing residents attracted by the opportunity to live by the sea as well as buyers who are relocating to the area, attracted equally by Folkestone's 55-minute journey time to London.

Farrell's team has worked on the principle that sea views will be optimised, residents will have access to outdoor/garden space and that new public space will be created.

There is potential for job-creation during the construction phase and in the longer term in the infrastructure supporting the new community, including in shops and restaurants within the development area, say the backers.

Folkestone Harbour Company's Trevor Minter said: "This outline plan is an important step towards realising a once-in-a-century opportunity to create a seafront of which Folkestone can be proud. The challenges are enormous, but we are determined to get the formula right, even if this takes time."

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Firms turn to virtual offices in bid to bring down overheads

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

OFFICE jobs could become a thing of the past as the number of companies taking part in 'virtual working' – where there is no defined physical workplace – rises in the county.

According to virtual-office-supplier Regus, new and growing firms in Kent are turning their backs on large offices and expensive buildings.

Regus claims that fixed overheads, especially full-time physical premises, are causing more companies to consider alternative solutions for the way their employees work.

The group says that demand

for virtual-office services in the county is at an unprecedented high, with 42 per cent of firms in Maidstone, for example, citing "reducing fixed workspace" as one of their top ways of cutting costs without damaging growth prospects, while 27 per cent report they are bolstering their workforce with flexible workers and freelancers rather than full-time staff.

One firm using the virtual option is Answers & Solutions Kent, a group that provides outsourced business-to-business marketing services.

Managing director Richard Romain said: "In order to thrive in today's challenging economic climate and to keep our

fees competitive, we operate a slim and virtual business model which involves using trusted freelancers rather than full-time staff and not having physical premises.

"I started working from home and hired a separate company specifically to answer our calls.

"Although I had a nice custom-built home office, I never felt it was professional to meet clients in my own home, but I got tired of meeting them at hotels. While the call-handling company was competent, it was very expensive.

"So I took a virtual office at the Regus West Malling centre last year. They deliver the

service that the call-handling company was delivering plus a whole virtual-office function for less money.

"I cannot now understand why any business would want an answering-machine when they can have their calls answered by a real person.

"The West Malling centre receptionists know me and treat my customers the way I want them to be treated."

A number of successful entrepreneurs have admitted starting their business with a virtual office – including Dragons' Den star James Caan, who started out with a virtual office in Pall Mall, central London.

Clients can use 'on demand'

services like booking private meeting rooms or daily office space, or even have their business post delivered there.

Steve Purdy, UK managing director at Regus, said: "We attribute the strong demand for our virtual office to the rising number of home-based and small businesses looking for workspace support that is low-cost, low-risk and can dramatically increase productivity.

"Local entrepreneurs are really embracing the potential of the new, virtual way of doing business, banishing the rigid 20th-century attitude that it is necessary to have a full-time, physical workplace.

"When you're starting out,



VIRTUAL FAN: Richard Romain, of Answers & Solutions Kent

it is crucial to have a fixed business address that you can use on company stationery and that will receive mail, a local phone number and someone on hand to answer your calls.

"Your customers don't care where you are carrying out the work, as long as they can get hold of you at a central point."

European success for cross-Channel trains



BEST SUPPLIER: Eurotunnel is a winner with Deutsche Bahn

EUROTUNNEL has won the 2012 Deutsche Bahn award for Best Supplier at a European railways event held in Berlin.

The prize recognises the best overall performance by an infrastructure or rolling-stock specialist.

The German rail network collaborates with almost 35,000 suppliers across the world, so its recognition of the cross-Channel rail operator underlines the commitment by Eurotunnel to deliver a reliable and environmentally-friendly freight-shuttle service to its customers, say its managers.

Dr Rüdiger Grube, chairman of Deutsche Bahn, said: "Eurotunnel's freight shuttles have earned this prize for

their speed, ease of use and the safety with which they enable hauliers to make deliveries between the Continent and Great Britain and back.

"Eurotunnel is the most environmentally-friendly cross-Channel operator, helping Deutsche Bahn reduce the carbon footprint."

Jacques Gounon, chairman and chief executive officer of Groupe Eurotunnel SA, said: "I am proud to see Eurotunnel's commitment to the quality of its service has been recognised by a railway operator of the reputation of Deutsche Bahn.

"Operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, is proof of the constant attention we bring to our customers' needs, and a measure of our competitive edge."

National recognition for financial-services firm

ACCOUNTANCY and financial-services company Reeves has been named finalist in the Mid Tier Firm category and the Tax Award of the Year – Non Global Firm category at the British Accountancy Awards.

In 2011 Reeves won the title of Best Employer in a category backed by Accountancy Age and the Best Companies Group. Reeves also won the prestigious national award for Best Large Firm of the Year at the Accountancy Age Awards in 2009.

Clive Stevens, managing partner at Reeves, which has offices in Canterbury and Chatham, said: "I am delighted Reeves has been recognised.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Reeves as they are fundamental to the firm's success."

Cable earmarks £1bn for business bank

GOVERNMENT plans to provide £1 billion towards a new bank that will increase lending to businesses have been applauded in Kent.

Business Secretary Vince Cable told the Liberal Democrat conference that the move was to help many small and medium-sized companies that have struggled for credit since the financial crisis began.

The bank will operate via existing lenders and start within 18 months.

It is hoped that the money will be matched by private-sector investment.

The details of where the state funding will come from and the bank's operation will not be made public until Wednesday, December 5, Lib Dem officials said.

Government support will be in the form of both guarantees and equity and will go on to the balance sheet of the new institution and not be reclaimed by the Treasury.

There is a chance that it could

generate returns, however.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "The 'small business bank' is a good thing – we've been calling for this for a long time and we are delighted to see it finally get off the ground. The FSB has carried out significant research assessing similar models in the US and Europe.

"FSB believes the new 'small business bank' will stimulate competition among the high-street banks, in particular the so-called Big Five. The FSB says the move will also open the door to alternative lenders and create new ways for small businesses to get finance, such as credit unions.

"We are certain the newly-created 'small business bank' will help boost confidence and deliver growth in the economy."

Cable promised a more coherent strategy to help get the UK out of recession.

He said: "We need a new British business bank with a clean balance

sheet and an ability to expand lending rapidly to the manufacturers, exporters and high-growth companies that power our economy.

"Today I can announce we will have one. I am working with the Chancellor to develop a state-backed institution that will combine up to a billion pounds of new Government capital with a larger private-sector contribution.

"This will then apply further leverage through guarantees to support up to £10bn of finance to SMEs [small and medium enterprises] and mid-sized business – a significant portion of all the lending available.

"To that end, I believe we need an industrial strategy – a positive and ambitious vision built around long-term investment and innovation in skills and science.

"We are so good at so many things in this country, but for too long the mirage of growth based on property speculation and financial

gambling has hidden the harder virtues of making things productively.

"We must get behind successful British-based firms in vehicles, aerospace, life sciences and creative industries and our world-class scientists and universities."

John Longworth, director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said the Government had "taken a decisive step toward the creation of a British business bank by committing real money to get it off the ground.

"We are pleased that ministers are heeding our call to create a business bank that goes well beyond a re-badging of existing schemes.

"The funding announced by Vince Cable is the first step in a journey toward a British business bank that enables new and growing companies to get access to capital in the same way that they do in Germany, South Korea and the USA."

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(T&C's below)

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, well travelled, intelligent, GSOH, seeks genuine, affectionate male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393897**

WHERE have all the eligible bachelors gone? Slim attractive blue eyed blonde, many interests and looking some TLC. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397019**

MAXINE blonde green eyed slim single mum longing for some adult companionship with reliable mature male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397011**

YOUNG at heart widow, 61, N/5, seeks honest, caring man, 55-65 for company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397005**

HI I am Ann a young looking lonely widow, slim, attractive, solvent with OHAC, looking to love again, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395715**

LOUISE single divorcee looking for fun times with likeminded male who likes to have good times in or out. Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395711**

HAPPY go lucky 60yr old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, attractive, looking for honest male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397021**

GENUINE attractive, intelligent fun loving woman, 57, hopes to meet well travelled, educated, socially adept man for love, laughter and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396621**

HI I am Tess, single, sexy, solvent, professional but very lonely, looking for genuine fun with reliable male, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395691**

SINGLE professional 39yr old, travels with work, looking for some out of hours entertainment. Call me to find out more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395689**

CHRIS5Y 51, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, large build, size 22, seeks local male from loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395209**

ATTRACTIVE caring lady, 77, 5ft 1ins, GSOH, fit, varied interests, seeks sincere gent, N/5 for companionship and happiness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395453**

GILLY green eyed red haired nurse looking to start a new life with similar lonely male also looking for genuine love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395043**

ANNE attractive 30's student nurse who loves to keep fit and travel looking for broadminded professional male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395037**

CLAIRE 19yr old bored busty blonde seeking male for fun times in or out. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395033**

FLOSSY likes cinema, meals out, nights in, looking for N/5 male, 65-66 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392906**

5FT 7ins female, blue eyes, black hair, trustworthy, GSOH, likes animals, walks, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396149**

56YR old female, likes music, varied interests, seeking well travelled male, 46-60 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392834**

DEBBIE is 28yrs, petite and blonde. Loves gym and fitness. WLTm a sensitive male, looks and age unimportant. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395659**

FRANCES is a curvy mid 40's lady, loves most things, could she love you? Call to find out. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395653**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

36YR old single mum, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, medium build, GSOH, likes music, walks, animals, cinema, nights in, meals out, seeks sincere male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396373**

LADY 71, 5ft 7ins, seeks dance partner of similar age and height. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396391**

HI I'm Bev, 44yrs old, tall and blonde, Good wicked SOH and varied interests. WLTm kid chap, looks unimportant. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395699**

EMMA is a dizzy hairdresser, 24yrs old looking for a guy with hair to work on! Any age, looks unimportant. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395695**

SARAH 29yrs slim and dark haired WLTm older male. Sarah likes various things and wants to try them with you. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395693**

SARAH is a busty blue eyed blonde seeking a fun guy in local area. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395683**

TINA young 64, smoker, GSOH, loving, caring, likes animals, meals out, seeks male for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394201**

JULIE 5ft 9ins blue eyed blonde looking for male for mutually convenient meets, looks/status unimportant, discretion a must. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394123**

SUSAN first time advertiser very lonely and looking for love with considerate, loyal male with lots of love to give and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393489**

TRACY likes night's in/out, seeking honest male, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391884**

SERENE affable black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, friendly, loves reading nature, theatre, music, sports WLTm genuine caring gent, 34-47 to share laughter/life. **London Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396411**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTm Mr Right if he is out there? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

LINDA 42, easygoing, likes cinema, walks, theatre, seeks N/5 male with similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395523**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTm genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. **London Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

MEL easy going middle aged singleton looking for adult companionship with nice male who appreciates a feminine, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392487**

WELL educated female, slim, smart, mid 50's, needing to restart life, looking for tall, slim, smart gent with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391136**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine N/5, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, professional/military gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394525**

LADY 70, likes most things, WLTm gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394309**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/5 male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

HELEN 34yr old single mum to one, tall, slim and attractive, WLTm intelligent male for good conversations and adult meets, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394475**

ELISA blue eyed brunette 39, curly and delicious, loves to travel and live life, seeking similar free spirited loving male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394461**

JEM 24 new to this, WLTm someone who also enjoys fine wine/dining for good times and adult relationship, 28-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392497**

PAULA 27, attractive brunette, very outgoing and sensual looking for similar male for mature broadminded relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394571**

KAREN pretty single mum of one, 34, independent, professional, OHAC, looking for someone special to enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394563**

MID 40's slim, attractive female, seeks single male, 65-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391989**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTm mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GSOH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**

DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

MARGARET middle aged, attractive, likes storm chasing, cooking, seeks male with GSOH, possible forces. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391648**

RACHAEL blonde haired attractive female 27, looking for love with fun guy who like me is not looking for anything too serious, Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394667**

TRACY mum of two, blonde, slim, attractive, tactile and very sexy for age, WLTm male 30-50yrs for LTR, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394665**

FIT active lady, early 70's, honest, caring, OHAC, likes gardening, music/dance, seeking nice companion to enjoy life together and have good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394915**

LADY likes most things, wishes to meet gent 62-68 for evenings in/out, cinema, walks, talks and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392472**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

FAY very lonely single mum, 26yrs looking for some adult companionship with open minded, non-judgmental male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393121**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**



LESLEY professional single mum, a bit of a chatterbox, loves fine dining/wining, WLTm eligible bachelor to take advantage of. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394659**

SALLY 27yr old Air Hostess seeking honest reliable male to join the mile high club, discreet liaisons and friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394655**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/5 male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

ALISHA blue eyed petite brunette, likes to keep fit, cooking, holidays, seeks male 30-45 for special times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392399**

MICHELE very attractive black single mum, 32yrs, someone you could take home to your mother, seeking a one in a million guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391879**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

YOUNG in outlook 60yr old lady, seeks gent with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393173**

PETITE French lady, likes to be pampered, seeks sugar daddy, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

EMALE 58, widow, attractive, seeking mature gent, 60 plus with GSOH for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379649**

ATTRACTIVE 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390868**

MICHELLE fit trendy 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for honest trustworthy male for friendship, poss LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389757**

TRUDIE blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine male to enjoy life with and spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389755**

AMANDA 25yr old easygoing singleton looking for fun times only with mature male, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389733**

SOPHIE lonely fun attractive female, 21, looking for fun nights out and cosy nights in with similar male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389731**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

CHRIS genuine, N/5, 60, likes cycling, walking, seeks soul mate to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393026**

HOPEFUL fun loving, young male, 50, good company, genuine, sincere, easy going, seeks female to rediscover full life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396855**

CHRIS genuine, N/5, 60, likes cycling, walking, seeks soul mate to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396825**

FIT 55yr old male, seeks adventurous lady for broadminded adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396805**

SEYMOUR mid 60's, likes cruising, travel, socialising, seeks active, N/5 lady to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396675**

JOHN romantic, caring, likes country/coastal walks, music, candle lit suppers, seeks special soul mate to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396617**

MALE 57, WLTm female 45-55, all I can give is guaranteed love, devotion and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396497**

33YR old male, looking for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396345**

MALE 70's, likes dancing, holidays, meals out, seeks lady, 75-85 to share the sunshine years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396335**

SUB male, WLTm mature extremely dominant female for happy relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395327**

PRESENTABLE Surrey male, looking for lady for afternoon fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395521**

MICHAEL romantic, honest, caring, seeks lady to brighten up lonely life, likes walks, meals out, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395445**

DOMINANT male, seeking submissive female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396461**

LONG term lover required with no strings by caring, open minded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396423**

BRETT 35, enjoy socialising, cinema, travel, gym, seeking female, 25-35. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395883**



ROBERT 43, looking for fun with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392938**

HANDSOME builder, 44, great body, charming, N/5, 5ft 10ins, seeks female, 35-65 for discreet passionate meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392926**

DAVID 37, good looking, fit, seeking older lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392242**

JAMES 40's, good looking, single dad, seeking lovely lady for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393665**

49YR old male, 6ft 1ins, easygoing, seeking serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394535**

50 and shades of grey, looking for daytime fun with female, 18-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394401**

SPANISH/SWEDISH speaker sought for 67yr old Chartered Accountant for education and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392306**

MALE likes animals, simple things in life, seeks N/5, tall, slim female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391738**

DAN 18, easygoing, looking for sweet, petite female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395215**

Gay Seeking

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BI male, young 60's, tall, fit, easy-going, discreet, seeks single male/couple, any age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396967**

ALAN 62, well built, 16st, sub, seeks dom guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396811**

MALE seeks CD/TV looking for warmth and tenderness in his life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396613**

PRETTY blonde 47, medium build, looking for boyish female, 50's for cosy nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388798**

Friendship

JENNIFER 42, black single mum, lonely, seeks white single mum for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382741**

DEBBIE 40, looking for special male/female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378691**

MALE 46, looking for guy, slightly overweight, 46-50 for discreet fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387225**

Contact members by phone:

0906 515 7112 0906 515 7114

Kent Police Authority began the privatisation of Kent Police, only Labour can stop it

My five pledges

- ✓ **No privatisation of Kent Police**
- ✓ **Victims before villains**
- ✓ **To catch the really bad not just the merely bad**
- ✓ **Accountability**
- ✓ **Transparency**

On November 15th, choose to keep privatisation out of policing, choose Labour, choose Harriet Yeo



Harriet Yeo, putting victims and their needs at the very heart of Kent policing.

Keep up with the campaign on twitter @KentPCC and join in the debate on hash tag #vb4v (victims before villains)

harrietyeo.com



Training, courses and careers

MidKent upgrade puts it in excellent shape for future

ONGOING improvements at both its Medway and Maidstone campuses prove MidKent College is still in good shape to deliver excellent education, say officials.

The Maidstone campus is currently undergoing a £25m makeover and the state-of-the-art Medway campus is receiving further upgrades to its existing facilities.

And the college says it is still accepting late entries onto its hundreds of courses to ensure students who may have made the wrong decisions elsewhere are not left out in the cold.

Acting principal Sue McLeod said: "The Learning and Skills Council has assessed our financial strength as 'outstanding', which is why we have been able to invest so significantly in both our Medway and Maidstone campuses.

"Our financial management and governance has also received the highest rating possible, which has been confirmed through subsequent reports from both internal and external auditors.

"What this means is that both prospective and existing students can be confident of receiving the best education in top quality premises."

The redevelopment of the Maidstone Campus started earlier this year and will bring the site up to the standard of its Medway counterpart, which opened in 2009 at a cost of £86m.

Due for completion in December, 2013, the Maidstone makeover also includes refurbishment of the premises formerly occupied by the University for the Creative Arts.

Meanwhile, a number of rooms at the Medway campus were also extended or renovated over the summer, including the introduction of a workshop to house the new motor vehicle course as well as a new live performance and recording facility for music students.

Medway putting itself on show at Construction Expo

A SPECIAL day has been put aside in Medway to showcase the area's qualities when it comes to beating the recession.

Visitors will get the chance to see the area's employment opportunities.

Businesses and industry leaders from across the South East and London will descend on the Construction Expo on October 11.

The day is designed to boost employment and regeneration in the area, and form part of an Employment and Skills Day across the area.

The expo will feature leading architects and building contractors right down to small local businesses and people looking for a future career in construction.

The event is aimed at attracting potential developers and offering advice on how to kick-start a career in construction.

It is backed by Medway Council and is being staged at slip 5 of the Historic Dockyard, Chatham. It includes 12 free workshops and speakers such as interior designer and TV presenter, Oliver Heath.

A jobs and apprenticeships fair with more than 50 local employers and training providers will also be held all day at the Brook Theatre, Chatham, offering details on the latest vacancies and courses with the retail, hospitality and security sectors as its focus.

For more information about the Employment and Skills Day, visit www.medway.gov.uk/expo.

College offers range of courses to sixth formers having a change of heart

NORTH West Kent College has an autumn fast-track programme for young people who feel they have made the wrong choice about their education and is offering them with the opportunity to change their mind and go to college.

The courses start on November 5 at the newly re-developed Dartford and Gravesend campuses and the new sustainable construction centre, SusCon.

The college says that school sixth-form is not always the right choice for everyone and it is not uncommon for young people to realise this in the first few weeks of term.

This does not mean that students should be afraid to change their mind. North West Kent College is offering students in this position the chance start a new course that suits them at the college.

It offers a range of courses and levels with something to suit everyone in: hair, beauty, business, secretarial, computing, construction, sustainable construction, engineering, catering, art and design, music, media, performing arts, professional care, sport, travel and tourism, public services, and gateway learning.

A free shuttle bus service is available from Dartford station to the Dartford campus, and from Medway and Hoo to the Gravesend campus. Both campuses also have free car parking.



SOCIAL SCENE: North West Kent College says it has a wide range of course places ready to start in November

The college says it has an excellent record of providing a pathway to employment and university, and that £90 million has been invested in new facilities at both campuses, which provides some of the best training opportunities in the country.

The college says it is committed to helping students achieve their ambition, whether they wish to achieve high-level professional qualifications or gain the skills to get their first job.

David Gleed, principal of North West Kent College said: "Don't just

arrange to come and talk to our staff, arrange to come and talk to our students too and find out why they chose North West Kent College.

"Our students are our best ambassadors and their success is our greatest achievement."

Octopus students get their tentacles on a new car thanks to motor dealer

A MOTOR vehicle training college is to benefit from a new partnership with a car business.

Dagenham Motors, based in Gillingham and Strood, has donated a spare vehicle to motor vehicle college Octopus Opportunities to help develop its training programme.

The Ford Escort will be used by the Rochester college to help students get first-hand experience in motor vehicle maintenance and repair.

Dagenham Motors business manager Dave Rodgers said: "As a local business we feel it is important for us to contribute to the community, which is why we want to

support our local colleges and learning centres.

"The students currently studying for motor vehicle qualifications are the service technicians of the future and we want them to have the best training possible."

Octopus Opportunities managing director Jon Whitfield said: "We would like to say a big thank you to Dagenham Motors for donating this vehicle to us.

"The car will be invaluable to the learning and development of our students. There is no alternative to first-hand direct experience of vehicle maintenance and repair."



DRIVE: Dagenham Motors' Dave Rodgers and Jon Whitfield of Octopus Opportunities flank the motor repair students

Schools & education

UCA marks 25th birthday of Where's Wally? books

WHERE'S Wally? Well, no-one is ever quite sure, but one thing is certain – it's the 25th anniversary of him being launched in Maidstone.

He was created a quarter of a century ago by a graduate of the University for the Creative Arts.

Martin Handford graduated in 1980 from UCA Maidstone when it was called Maidstone College of Art.

He saw his crowd-pleasing book published for the first time on September 21, 1987.

Since then, the sky has been the limit, and more than 58 million Where's Wally? books have been sold in 38 countries.

UCA BA (Hons) Illustration course leader, Jane Cradock-Watson, said: "Where's Wally? has become a global phenomenon thanks to Martin's high-quality illustrations and the ingenious visual challenge/puzzle that he brought to books for the first time.

"The illustrations and storylines actively encourage reader participation – making them quite addictive – but they also feature an improbable male main character which has encouraged young boys, in particular, to spend more time looking at books and to read.

"The highly visual premise, with less reliance



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: UCA Maidstone

on text, means the books translate well across language barriers and cultural differences and appeal to an international audience."

The author and illustrator said it was at art college that he learned the craft of illustration and where he developed his colourful style which lost little when printed.

Ms Cradock-Watson added: "They always say that the years at art college are the most valuable as it's the time to experiment, make mistakes and try new things, so it's great to hear that Martin recognised the value of this.

"He is a very visible example of how it's possible to be very successful in illustration if you work hard at it."

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Public Appointments

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe
learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and
achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a....

Temporary Art Therapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale B2 - point 32 to 41 (£27,052 to £34,549)
(2 days per week - term time only - pro rata - to July 2013)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary)
and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged
3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic
and experienced Art Therapist, with a professional and flexible approach.

In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who
would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their
full potential.

Working hours are 13 hours p/w, term time only across both sites.
Candidates should hold a relevant Art Therapy qualification. Benefits
include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance
management programme and Continuous Professional Development.
Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey
Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount
and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the
full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of
children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share
this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a
satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 05.10.12 Interview Date 16.10.12

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit,
please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court
School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634
338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

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Public Appointments

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Catering Assistant, Part-time, term time only Ref: P0550
Salary: £13,807 pro rata - Maidstone Campus, 18.5 hours per week

The successful applicant will have experience of working in the catering industry and understand the importance of health and safety in the kitchen and restaurant environment. The postholder will be expected to support the catering and hospitality lecturers during lessons to ensure that students observe safe practices and clean their working areas to the required standard. The postholder will be expected to carry out cleaning duties as required. A qualification in food safety/hygiene is desirable.

Closing date: Thursday 11 October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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HOUSE MATRON - PART-TIME/JOB SHARE

To work as a job-share in a Boarding House. Duties inc supervision of pupils, dealing with parents, maintenance of clothing inc laundry, sewing, ironing, accompany pupils to medical appointments, working as a team with the housekeeper and assisting with cleaning during holidays & other absences. Applicants must be prepared to fully contribute to the general welfare of pupils and to work as part of a small team. Experience of working with young people is essential & ICT skills. A first aid qualification would be an advantage. Hours: 34 per wk during term time working a shift rota over 7 days term time, week days only during holidays. Salary £15725 per annum (pro rata)

Closing date: Midday 4th Oct
Interviews: W/C 8th Oct

An application form & further details can be located on the school's website www.doyrms.com, emailing reception@doyrms.com or 01304 245023. CVs will not be accepted.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Candidates must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Musical Theatre Lecturer, full time, permanent

Ref: P0272

Salary: £26,836 - £31,218 (dependent on experience and qualifications)
37 hours per week - Medway Campus

Mid-Kent College is looking to recruit an enthusiastic and dedicated Musical Theatre Lecturer to lead the HND programme within a successful Performing Arts department. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a high level of vocational experience, direct productions, be able to co-ordinate/work alongside existing teachers to develop, and expand, Musical Theatre both within the college and in the local community. The successful candidate will be responsible for planning and delivering, to a high standard, specialist units to Level 3 students on the BTEC Extended Diploma in Musical Theatre and the Level 4 HNC/D in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) courses.

Lecturer in Media, full time, permanent

Ref: P0618

Salary: £26,336 - 30,118 per annum, (dependent on qualifications and experience)
37 hours per week Medway Campus

A full-time Media Lecturer is required to teach in a busy and thriving Media department. The post requires teaching and leading curriculum for Level 2 and 3 BTEC students with a range of abilities. Ideally, the candidate should have a background within the Media and TV industry, and an excellent knowledge of the Final cut Pro 7 video editing package. Some knowledge of Avid Media Composer 5 and above would also be beneficial with a working knowledge of a TV studio.

Hourly paid Lecturer in Media

Ref: SESS

Hourly Rate: £15.80 - £23.30 per hour (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

A flexible media sessional lecturer is required to teach a minimum of 10 hours per week with the Media department. The ideal candidate should hold a teaching qualification and have experience with BTEC and vocational qualifications. Current industry knowledge is desirable, specifically within the television and film industries

Learning Support Practitioner, term time only, permanent

Ref: LSP01

Salary: £19,464 per annum, pro rata - 37 hours per week
Medway & Maidstone Campus

We are looking to appoint an excellent, committed and enthusiastic Learning Support Practitioner to deliver quality support for learners in FE. You will need to be an effective team player with a flexible approach, working with learners across the College who have been identified as having specific learning difficulties or needing support with Literacy or Numeracy. You will hold a relevant qualification in learner support or be willing to undertake this as part of your professional development.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality

Ref: SESS

Hourly Rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience)
Medway Campus

We are looking to appoint a passionate and creative individual to teach on a variety of practical catering qualifications, facilitating student learning and achievement. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Recent industry experience is essential.

Apprentice, Full-time

Ref: App

Medway/Maidstone Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who will benefit from gaining their first NVO Qualification whilst working in our Examinations Department. The successful candidate will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within Business Administration. Working within tight deadlines, you should be methodical, flexible, and familiar with MS Office. **Training allowance:** £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion

Closing date: 5th October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Hourly-paid Lecturer in Maths

Ref: SESS

Hourly rate: £23.44 - £31.10 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver the one-year Maths A Level programme. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant academic qualification and have a teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Electrical Installation, full time, permanent

Ref: P0070

Salary: £30,718 - £34,505 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to deliver Electrical Installation qualifications to learners studying from level 1 to level 3. The ideal candidate will have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Building Services Industry, have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in the relevant field. The successful candidate will need to hold an Advanced Electrical Certificate, including Inspection and testing of installations and an interest in environmental technologies is also expected. Applicants should possess either a D32/34 or A & V Awards and hold a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work towards teaching and assessing qualifications.

Hourly Paid Learning Support Assistants

Ref: LSA01

Hourly Rate: £9.38 per hour - Variable Hours
Medway & Maidstone Campus

The College is looking to recruit Learning Support Assistants to support students throughout the department in the implementation of additional needs. The ideal candidate will have the ability to work in a manner to support the changing needs of students ensuring differentiation is implemented within the classroom and have experience of supporting young adults with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Closing date: 5th October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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PLANNING

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13
OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010**

**KCC/AS/0306/2012 - Proposed development at
Glebe Farm, Duck Lane, Shadoxhurst, Kent,
TN26 1LT.**

Highview Park Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for development of a facility for the processing and storage of End of Life Vehicles (ELV), with construction of a concrete slab base, 93sqm processing building, weighbridge, portable cabin and welfare facilities, and use of a mobile crane and crusher.

You may view this application via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden.

**KCC/DA/0334/2012 - Proposed development at Long
Reach Sewage Treatment Works, Marsh Street,
Dartford, Kent, DA1 5PP.**

Thames Water is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for upgrade to sewage treatment works including sludge cake storage building, odour control stack, kiosks, containerised plant and associated works.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR.

**KCC/SW/0309/2012 - Proposed development at
Land within Ridham Dock, Iwade, Sittingbourne,
Kent, ME9 8SR.**

SITA UK is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for construction and operation of a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) and Waste Transfer Station (WTS) for Commercial and Industrial and Municipal Solid Waste and ancillary staff and fleet vehicle parking, vehicle workshop, 2 x weighbridges, fuel tank, sprinkler tank, pump house, substation and improved access and office and welfare facility.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

**KCC/TW/0524/2011 - Proposed development at
Westdene, Whetsted Road, Five Oak Green,
Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6SD.**

CLC Construction Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for retrospective change of use from breakers yard and ancillary storage of damaged vehicles and trailers to site office and open storage, screening and crushing, of spoil from road works/excavations and installation of lighting.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN11 2AB.

**NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13
OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990**

**KCC/CA/0338/2012 - Proposed development at St
John's Primary School, St John's Place, Canterbury,
Kent, CT1 1BD.**

KCC Property Group is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for the partial demolition of building known as AEC (Adult Education Centre), new 2 storey building within retained façade of AEC, new link building to existing Primary School, minor demolition to part of wc on rear elevation of existing Primary School and associated landscaping and external works. The proposed development is within the Canterbury City Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance and also affects the setting of nearby listed buildings. The development site is in close proximity to and may affect a public right of way.

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council

Dated: 30 September 2012



Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

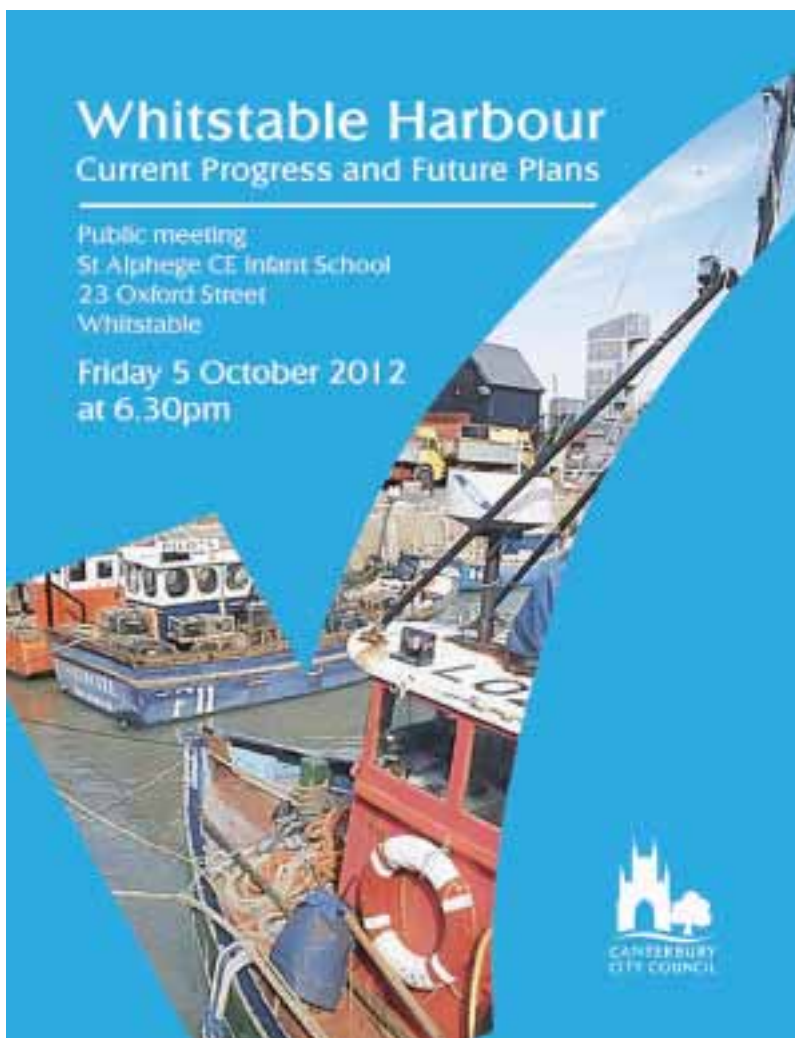
The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/12/01529/FUL: Owletts, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PD Pitch roof to existing garage incorporating dormer window to front and rear roof slopes. **Applicant:** Mr and Mrs McGeehan Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/01573/FUL: Flat 11 Clifton Gardens, Clifton Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DQ Replacement timber windows with uPVC to front and rear elevations of flat. **Applicant:** Mrs Arnold Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/01582/FUL: Otters Quest, Seaton Road, Wickhambreau, CT3 1RW Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant:** Mrs C Stacey Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/01618/ADV: Former Habitat UK Ltd, St Andrew's Close, Canterbury, CT1 2RL Installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signage. **Applicant:** Aldi Stores Ltd Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/01624/FUL: 30 Central Parade, Herne Bay, CT6 5HX First-floor extension over existing garage to provide ancillary accommodation. **Applicant:** Mr L Barwick Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/01631/VAR: 11-12 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP Variation of condition 03 of planning permission CA/12/00468/FUL relating to conversion of public house to two dwellings with ground and first-floor extensions and associated internal and external alterations; variation in respect of approved drawings including the retention and re-roofing of rear outhouse, provision of additional rooflights to first-floor extension, re-arrangement of staircase and interior of number 11 and retention of entrance lobbies. **Applicant:** Hill Property Ltd Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/01639/FUL: Norman House, 6 St Thomas Hill, Canterbury, CT2 8EH Erection of one dwelling and garage. **Applicant:** Mr and Mrs R Hayward Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/01647/VAR: Land adjacent to 26 Beach Walk, Whitstable, CT5 2BP Retention of development without compliance with condition 08 of planning permission CA/12/00048/FUL relating to the approved drawings enabling alterations to the site position of the approved dwelling and the insertion of inverted dormers to the side elevation. **Applicant:** Mr J Bloice Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/01652/FUL: The Haven, Out Elmstead Lane, Barham, CT4 6PG Replacement dwelling with detached garage and new vehicular access. (Resubmission). **Applicant:** Mr P Wiggins Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/01656/LB: Brooklands, Fordwich Road, Fordwich, CT2 0BS Internal alterations and insertion of a new window. **Applicant:** Mr Thorgerson Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/12/01658/FUL: Brooklands, Fordwich Road, Fordwich, CT2 0BS Change of use from commercial offices to a residential dwelling. **Applicant:** Mr Thorgerson Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.management@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 22 October 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 28 September 2012



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990**

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or its setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

**REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING
APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 15 OCTOBER 2012**

SW/11/1622:
New access & double five bar gate (retrospective) - Fairmeadow Farm, Swanton Street, BREDGAR; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1034:
Demolition of existing premises and construction of 6 two bedroom flats with associated parking (PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO RED LINE AREA) - 7 High Street, MINSTER; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1107 &
SW/12/1108:
Alterations to Listed Building including insertion of new windows and stud partitions; new entrance doors and conservatory and construction of detached garage building - Culnells Farm, School Lane, IWADE; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1119:
Change of use of bungalow to accommodation for agricultural workers - Sandhole Bungalow, Kemsdale Road, HERNHILL; **REASON 6**

SW/12/1126:
Two storey side and rear extension, reducing to single storey height at South East corner, internal alterations including enlargement of basement, erection of railed walkway and landscaping to rear - 113 High Street, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1147 &
SW/12/1148:
Single storey extension to the rear of a 2 storey terraced house to kitchen and dining room - 33 Norman Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning



**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010**

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0811/SH - 43 - 47 Sandgate Road Folkstone Kent CT20 1RZ - Installation of two internally illuminated panel signs to existing ATMs to replace existing ATM panel signs and three internally illuminated poster signs to ground floor front and side windows.

Y12/0816/SH* - 20 Radnor Cliff Folkstone Kent CT20 2JJ - Listed building consent to replace 3 windows to 1st and 2nd floor.

Y12/0854/SH+ - Woodsetts Dental Street Hythe Kent CT21 5LH - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising of the felling of fourteen trees and various pruning works to six trees.

Y12/0843/SH - 94 Sandgate Road Folkstone Kent CT20 2BE - Erection of an external staircase to the rear elevation to provide separate access to the existing maisonette, together with other external alterations.

Y12/0752/SH - 28 Radnor Cliff Folkstone Kent CT20 2JJ - Erection of a side extension.

Y12/0797/SH - 8 Cliffe House Radnor Cliff Folkstone Kent CT20 2TY - Installation of 16 roof mounted solar photovoltaic panels together with associated mountings and equipment.

Y12/0820/SH - Rivendell School Lane Newington Folkstone Kent - Re-pollard back to previous pollard points of a Maple tree situated within a conservation area.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkstone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkstone. The applications are marked as follows:

- # - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
 - + - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe
- Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>. The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.
- C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

**To place your notice here call the Kent Public
Notice team on 01303 817044**

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02356/HOUSE 1 Nevill Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater

- Removal of redundant external staircase and steps plus upper ground utility room. Extend the existing lower ground floor garage and utility areas. Construct new upper ground floor breakfast room, utility area and new rear terrace with conservatory extension. Formation of new opening in position of existing arch (LB) (CA)

12/02590/FULMJ Part OS Plot 0582 Common Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst

- Erection of 11 local needs dwellings together with access and associated landscaping (MAJOR)

12/02533/FUL Flat 2 75 Mount Ephriam, Culverden

- Creation of external terrace area on existing flat roof, replacement of window with french doors (CA)

12/02535/HOUSE The Dovecot Home Farm, Goudhurst

- Part Retrospective - Alterations to existing dwelling (LB)

12/02539/FUL The Old Dairy Home Farm, Gounhurst

- Part Retrospective - Conversion of The Old Dairy to form dwelling (LB)

12/01925/HOUSE Butterfly Cottage Mount Pleasant, Lamberhurst

- Replacement and relocation of heating oil tank (LB)

12/01926/LBC Butterfly Cottage Mount Pleasant, Lamberhurst

- Listed Building Consent - Replacement and relocation of heating oil tank (LB)

12/02580/HOUSE 40 Pennington Road Southborough, Southborough Town Council

- Demolition of lean to, side entrance porch and steps, chimney and detached garage. Construction of single storey side and rear extension with pitched roof; alterations to ground floor, rear windows and insertion of sliding/folding doors and verandah; insertion of front sash window to basement; insertion of velux windows to roof and insertion of lantern light to flat section of roof (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting A Conservation Area (LB) Affecting A Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jonathan Macdonald - For the Head of Planning Services

Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 29 September 2012

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS19

IN THE PARISH OF MINSTER ON SEA

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS19
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close part of Public Footpath ZS19 between NGR TQ 920 690 and NGR TQ 921 690 from the 15th October 2012. The section of path to be closed is approximately 600 metres south east of the Kingsferry Bridge.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 14 December 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is around the site compound on the landward side of the seawall and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS TM35,
TM37 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY TM35A

IN THE PARISH OF BIRCHINGTON

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS TM35, TM37 AND PUBLIC
BRIDLEWAY TM35A
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed the following from 21st September 2012

- 1) Public Footpath TM35 between the junction with Footpath TM36 (NGR TR 279 693) and the junction with Public Bridleway TM35A (NGR TR 290 682)
- 2) Public Bridleway TM35A between its junctions with Footpaths TM35 (NGR TR 290 682) and Public Footpath TM32 (NGR TR 291 682)
- 3) Public Footpath TM37 between Ingoldsby Road and the junction with Essex Gardens / Devon Gardens.

The paths will be closed at the following time:

01:00 hrs Sunday 23rd September and 05:00 hrs Monday 24th September

Further short periods of closure will be required within a three month period which will be signed on site.

The paths are to be closed because works are planned on the railway tracks and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH TE3
IN THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS AT WADE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH TE3
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14 (1)
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath TE3 between the junction with Public Footpath TE1A (NGR TR 265 668) and the A299 Thanet Way from the 24th September 2012

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before November 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF
TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER
TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR473

IN THE PARISH OF AYLESFORD

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR473
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath MR473, between the junction with Public Footpath MR473A/KH36 (NGR TQ 741 585) and Lock Lane, Aylesford from the 24th September 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 24th November 2012.

The path is to be closed to install storm drains between the Travis Perkins site and the River Medway and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact:

Michele Snoding

Countryside Access Service

Kent County Council

Invicta House

County Hall

Maidstone

Kent

ME14 1XX

Dated: 30th September 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1554/S - HEADCORN HALL, BIDDENDEN ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9JD - Demolition of existing property Headcorn Hall and associated outbuildings and erection of 10 detached houses; creation of new vehicular access via Shenley Road and provision of access road and associated landscaping. Reason: 6

MA/12/1665/S - ST HELENS MONTESSORI SCHOOL, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JT - Repositioning of tennis court previously approved under MA/11/1134. Reason: 1

MA/12/1669/N - 97A, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SA - Listed building consent for internal works and replacement windows to facilitate the conversion of office accommodation into 2no. two bedroom flats. Reason: 2 3

MA/12/1673/S - HEARNDEN COTTAGE, EAST SUTTON ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9PS - Conversion of stables to annexe and extension of barn to form workshop. Reason: 1

MA/12/1680/N - LAND TO THE WEST OF MARLEY PLASTICS, ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DE - Provision of swales and an infiltration basin. Reason: 6

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than 14th October 2012 quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Dated: 30th September 2012

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 NOTICE is given that all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of NEVILLE PATRICK STEVENS late of 7 NORTH CRESCENT, COXHEATH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4QA who died on 16th JANUARY 2010 and letters of administration to whose estate were granted on 24th AUGUST 2012 out of the Brighton Principal Probate Registry of the Family Division to HELEN MARY STEVENS are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned solicitors on or before 29th November 2012 after which date the said administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to have them having regard only to the claims of which she than has had notice and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands she then has not had notice.

DATED 29th September 2012.

BENNETT & CO SOLICITORS, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1NY

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Chart Hills Golf Club, Weeks Lane, Biddenden
Applicant: Mark Kerr

Name of Premises: Secret Garden, Mersham Le Hatch Business Village, Hythe Road, Ashford
Applicant: Stephanie Wanstall

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ



PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of application for
a Premises Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I Mr Halil Er have applied to the **Gravesham Borough Council** for a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as **Taverna Food and Wine, 46 The Terrace, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2BJ** as follows:

Supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises:

From 08:00 to 23:00 Monday to Sunday

Any person wishing to make representation in respect of the above activities may do so by writing to The Licensing Section, Environmental and Public Health Services, 132 Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1BQ by 22 October 2012.

A copy of the application is kept by The Licensing Section, Environmental and Public Health Services, 132 Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1BQ. The application can be viewed Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm, except bank holidays.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the standard scale.

Application for
a New Premises Licence

We Addington Inns Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, for the grant of a New Premises Licence for The Angel Inn in respect of the following licensable activities:-

1. sale by retail of alcohol,
2. the provision of regulated entertainment,
3. the provision of late night refreshment

In respect of the premises situated at Addington Green, West Malling, Kent ME19 5BB and known by the sign of The Angel Inn.

The application can be viewed at the offices of the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent. ME19 4LZ during normal office hours - www.tmbc.gov.uk

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application that is no later than 20th October 2012.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW,

8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP

Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicant.

To place your notice here call the
Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

BLACKWALL ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Blackwall Road, Ashford, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 7 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Blackwall Road North and Goodcheap Lane.

The alternative route is via Blackwall Road South, A2070 Kennington Road, The Street, Hinxhill Road, Nacolts Road, Blackwall and Blackwall Road.

CHURCH ROAD, SEVINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Sevington, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the west of the junction with Cheeseman's Green Lane.

The alternative route is via Highfield Road, A20 Hythe Road, Willesborough Interchange, B2070 Bad Munstereifel Road and Church Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)**AMENDMENT NO. 1 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to :-

(1) install a 40mph speed limit on Smallhythe Road and Peening Quarter Road, Smallhythe (2) extend the 40mph speed limit on Faversham Road, Charing to Stalisfield Road, Charing and (3) extend the 40mph limit on Bathersden Road, Shadoxhurst to Cherry Garden Farm.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or

at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Amanda Murdoch, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email

tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 22/10/2012.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

EDDINGTON LANE, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 10 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Eddington Lane, Eddington Way, A2990 Thanet Way and B2205 Canterbury Road.

The road will be closed in phases, working from the junction with Canterbury Road as far as the bridge near Eddington Way. The closures will be between the various side roads, with access to the side roads maintained.

Progress with the works will depend on weather and ground conditions, and the extent of the closures will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

ESSEX STREET & KENT STREET, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of phone cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Essex Street and Kent Street, Whitstable, at their junctions with Harwich Street, as shown below.

ESSEX STREET will be closed from 15 October 2012 for 1 (or possibly 2) days.

The alternative route is via Essex Street, Forge Lane and Canterbury Road.

KENT STREET will be closed from 16 or 17 October (once Essex Street re-opened) for 1 (or possibly 2) days.

The alternative route is via Forge Lane and Essex Street. The closure of Kent Street will follow that of Essex

Street, as advised locally and signposted on site.

The closures are for 1-2 days each, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

JUBILEE ROAD, LITTLEBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Jubilee Road, Littlebourne, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 5 days, between 8.00 am and 4.30 pm.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A257 High Street, Nargate Street and Church Road.

MIDDLE WALL, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Middle Wall, Whitstable, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 74, with no access for through traffic between the entrance to the car park and the junction with Waterloo Road.

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Middle Wall, B2205 High Street and Terry's Lane.

Northbound via Terry's Lane, B2205 Horsebridge Road, Sea Street, Harbour Street and High Street.

SPENSER ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Spenser Road, Herne Bay, on or after 1 October 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Canterbury Road to outside number 87, with no access for through traffic between the junctions with Canterbury Road and Douglas Road.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Mickleburgh Hill and Douglas Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

B2174 PRINCES ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carrying out resurfacing works and to provide adequate protection for the work force, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2174 Princes Road, on or after 18 October 2012 for up to 14 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed 170 m west of Heath Lane Lower Road to 120m east of Heath Lane Lower Road.

The alternative route is via westbound A225 Lowfield Street, A226 Instone Road, Highfield Road, West Hill and A2018 Shepherds Lane Eastbound A2018 Shepherds Lane, West Hill, A226 Westgate Road, Home Gardens and A225 Lowfield Street.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

COOMBE LANE, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coombe Lane, Ash, on or after 17 October 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Coombe Vineyard and Coombe Cottage, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Moat Lane, The Street, New Street and Coombe Lane.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESEND AREA

ABBEY ROAD, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of Gas main replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Abbey Road, Gravesend, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 18 weeks or until the works have been

completed.

The road will be closed at its junction with Old Road East, Gravesend.

The alternative route is via Bellman Avenue, Rochester Road and Old Road East.

FORGE LANE, HIGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of Resurfacing works in scope with S278 works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Forge Lane, Higham at its junction with A226 Gravesend Road, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via:

Westbound - Forge Lane, Villa Road and A226 Gravesend Road.

Eastbound - Gravesend Road, Villa Road, School Lane and Hermitage Road.

THE TERRACE, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of Gas main replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Terrace and Queen Street, Gravesend, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in 2 phases. Phase 1 - One way order prohibiting eastbound traffic from its junction with Royal Pier Road. No Right turn into The Terrace from East Terrace. No Left turn into The Terrace from Clarendon Road when appropriate signage is in place.

Phase 2 - Queen Street, Gravesend to be closed for its entire length when appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route is via Milton Road, Windmill Street, Clive Road, Darnley Road, Bath Street, West Street, The Terrace and Hamer Street.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

PILGRIMS WAY, THURNHAM AND REGINALD ROAD, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of kerbing and carriageway patching repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way, Thurnham on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 2 days and Reginald Road, Maidstone, on or after 2 December 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Pilgrims Way will be closed from the junction with The Street to Thurnham Lane and Reginald Road will be closed from the junction with Hever Road to Charles Street.

The alternative route for Pilgrims Way is via Thurnham Lane, Ware Street, Hockers Lane, The Street and for Reginald Road is via Bower Place, Bower Lane, Florence Road, Charles Street.

WORKHOUSE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to clear out a soak away, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Workhouse Lane, East Farleigh, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The full length of road will be closed.

The alternative route is via Stockett Lane, B2163 Heath Road, Dean Street.

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL hereby makes the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984:

The effect of the named Order (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines; SYL and loading restrictions means no waiting at the times prescribed below).

MAIDSTONE:

Heathfield Close; DYL, both sides, that length which extends from its junction with Heathfield Road for a distance of 56 metres in a northerly direction.

Heathfield Road; DYL, both sides, that length which extends from a point 15 metres southeast of its junction with St Francis Close to a point 118 metres southeast of its junction with St Francis Close in a south easterly direction.

Rushmead Drive; DYL, both sides, that length which extends from its junction with the A229 Loose Road for a distance of 17 metres in a south westerly direction.

Tudor Avenue; DYL, northern side, that length which extends from a point 12 metres north of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point 66 metres from its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road in a westerly direction.

And that length which extends from a point 36 metres east of its junction with Norman Close to its junction with Norman Close in a westerly direction.

And that length which extends from its junction of Norman Close western side for a distance of 26 metres in a westerly direction.

And both sides, that length which extends from a point 71 metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue to its junction with Park Avenue in a south westerly direction.

Tudor Avenue; DYL, Southern side, that length which extends from a point 17 metres south of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point 60 metres west of its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road in a westerly direction.

And that length which extends from a point 154 metres west from its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point 153 metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue in a westerly then a south westerly direction.

Tudor Avenue; SYL, Mon - Sat 11.00am - 1.00pm, northern side, that length which extends from a point 67 metres west of its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point 36 metres east of its junction with Norman Close in a westerly direction.

And that length which extends from a point 35 metres west of its junction with Norman Close to a point 71 metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue in a south westerly direction.

Tudor Avenue; SYL, Mon - Sat 11.00am - 1.00pm, southern side, that length which extends from a point 60 metres west of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point 154 metres west of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road in a westerly direction.

And that length which extends from a point 153 metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue to a point 71 metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue in a south westerly direction.

BEARSTED

Emsworth Grove; DYL, both sides, that length which extends 90 metres from its junction with Hampton Road in a south-easterly then a south-westerly direction.

The Order will come into effect on the 08th day of October 2012.

Full details are contained in the Order, any Orders which will be amended by the Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Reception Desk, Maidstone Borough Council Offices, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ and at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of an order or any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that a requirement of any such enabling Act or of any relevant regulations made thereunder has not been complied with, may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made, make application to the High Court.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS) (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (VARIOUS TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO. 4) ORDER 2012

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 82 (2); 83 (2); and 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984, propose to make an Order to:-

1. Introduce Prohibition of Right Turns from Sturry Road, Canterbury into the access road to the development located 200 metres north east from Sturry Road's junction with Vauxhall Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, 4 Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Paul Thrower, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk, quoting the title of the Order by noon on 22nd October 2012.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

**BURLINGS LANE, KNOCKHOLT
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of new gas service to be installed, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Burlings Lane, Knockholt, on or after 1st October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Burwood.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Main Road and Shelleys Lane.

The alternative route is via Main Road and Shelleys Lane.

**CASTLE HILL, HARTLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Castle Hill, Hartley, on or after 15th October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Steep Hill to the junction of Ash Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junction of Steep Hill to the junction of Ash Road.

The alternative route is via: approaching from the East, the diversion route is north along Ash Road Hartley and Hartley Road Longfield and then west along Main Road Longfield then south along Fawkham Road Longfield and Fawkham Road Fawkham and then east along Castle Hill. The diversion for traffic approaching from the west is the same but reversed.

**COLD ARBOR ROAD, CHEVENING
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of footway improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cold Arbor Road, Chevening, on or after 1st October 2012 for up to 6 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with A25 Westerham Road.

There will be no access for through traffic at the junction with A25 Westerham Road.

The alternative route is via Cold Arbor Road, Bessels

Green Road, Wheatsheaf Hill, Ide Hill Road, Green Lane, Toys Field Road, Spot Lane, Hose Common Road, Hosey Hill, A25 Brasted Road, A25 Main Road, A25 Westerham Road.

**PARK PLACE, CHEVENING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Park Place, Chevening, on or after 15th October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Bessels Green Road to the junction A25 Westerham Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Bessels Green Road to A25 Westerham Road.

The alternative route is via: approaching from the South, the diversion route is north west along Bessels Green Road, East along A25 Westerham Road. The diversion for traffic approaching from the East is the same but reversed.

**WELLFIELD, HARTLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make Order prohibiting through traffic on Wellfield, Hartley, on or after 15th October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction of Ash Road and Larkwell Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Ash Road to Larkwell Lane.

The alternative route approaching from the west the diversion route is Ash Road, Larks Field, Woodland Avenue and Wellfield.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

**STOMBERS LANE, HAWKINGE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stomers Lane, Hawkinge, on or after 1 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Bramdene, approximately 120 metres to the east of the junction with Cowgate Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between Hawkinge and Alkham Valley Road using this route.

The alternative route is via Cowgate Lane, Standen Lane and Alkham Valley Road.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF SWALE)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND
DERESTRICTED ROADS)
AMENDMENT NO. 2 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under

Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

Extend the 30mph limit on Leysdown Road, Leysdown

westwards to a point just west of

Leysdown Road Layby. This is to implement a 30mph limit outside Warden Bay Primary School.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of

roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone,

Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Amanda

Murdoch, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford,

TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their

reasons, by no later than 22/10/2012.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

**BRADBOURNE LANE, DITTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bradbourne Lane, Ditton, on or after 16 October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between St Peters Road and the end of the road at "The Ford".

There is no alternative route.

**COPT HALL ROAD, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to upgrade the water supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Copt Hall Road, Ightham, on or after 1 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route is via A25 Sevenoaks Road, Common Road.

**LONG MILL LANE AND COMP LANE, PLATT, TONBRIDGE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Long Mill Lane on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 6 weeks and on Comp Lane on or after 26 November 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Long Mill Lane will be closed from the junction with Grange Road to Comp Lane and Comp Lane will be closed from the junction with Long Mill Lane to 50

metres after The Old School Hall.

The alternative route for Long Mill Lane is via A25 Maidstone Road, A20 Tonbridge Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Comp Lane and for Comp Lane is via Long Mill Lane, A25 Maidstone Road, A20 Tonbridge Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MILL STREET, LEVEL CROSSING, SNODLAND
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Street at the level crossing on or after Sunday 7th October 2012 between 08.00hrs and 20.00hrs for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for a RSM inspection at the level crossing. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Kirsty Mallinson on 01924 372957.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES) ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, propose to make an Order, the effect of which would be to:-

Prohibit any motor vehicle or mechanically propelled vehicle along the length of the service road fronting properties 279 to 321 St Johns Road and along the entire length of St Johns Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Access rights will be maintained for all vehicles requiring legitimate access to or from any property situated on these roads.

A copy of the proposed Order, together with the plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds, in writing, to Laura Squires, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on 22nd October 2012.

**John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ**

Dated 30th September 2012

**For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**



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Dutch circus that is keen to show the human touch

SEE PAGE 60



THE EYES HAVE IT

Former PM John Major is talking music-hall giants

SEE PAGE 68

Kent Weekend

Do you want to marry this man?

Julian Clary is up for grabs

SEE PAGE 51



PLUS: Down on the waterfront, somewhere quiet and cosy - **food and drink p53** Kentish company has been named as the country's top homebuilder - **property p69** Ford and The Sweeney - **driving p71**



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THE INTERVIEW

Julian Clary

A stage-managed love affair

Fresh from winning Big Brother, Britain's favourite camp comic Julian Clary is seeking romance on his new tour, which auditions men in the audience to be his husband... as **Joe Bill** discovers

THE king of the *double entendre*, Julian Clary is back from reality. His desert-dry wit and clear compassion for others saw the funny-man navigate his way through the emotional peaks and troughs of the Big Brother house to be crowned winner of this year's celebrity show. And now he is looking for love.

Not real love, of course, as his partner might testify, but the Kent-based comedian has built his new show on the hunt for a man he can call his own.

He said: "The premise is a search for love, so I am auditioning men in the audience to be my husband."

"At the end of the show I will marry one of them and there will be a beautiful civil partnership before your very eyes on stage. There will be confetti and bridesmaids, so all very heart-warming."

"Of course, it's a load of old nonsense, but it is good fun and passes the time, you know."

Clary has been a name in British comedy for almost 30 years fronting TV hits like Channel 4 game-show Sticky Moments in 1989 and Terry & Julian and Prickly Heat during the 90s.

But he is best known for his stand-up shows that have stretched the length of his career since his very early days as a giggling comic known as The Joan Collins Fancub.

His provocative dress sense, sexual references and occasional public speeches – see the British Comedy Awards 1993 appearance – have sometimes drawn criticism, but Clary remains one of the most recognisable faces in UK comedy.

But faux-marrying a man, straight or gay, on stage in front of an



audience is certainly something original and thought-provoking.

What if he actually finds someone he really likes?

Tongue in cheek, the 53-year-old said: "Well, I don't know. My world and persona on stage is one thing, but if you are seriously suggesting that will happen, well, I just don't know. I have a partner. So probably it is best to keep it all as fantasy. I think."

"Yes, anything could happen, so I suppose I am playing with fire. My partner hasn't actually seen the show yet, but I am sure he will be amused."

Clary has taken up presenting, theatre and screen-acting roles, is a journalist for the New Statesman

and even became an author with both his autobiography A Young Man's Passage and his novels Murder Most Fab, Devil In Disguise and Briefs Encountered.

Although he now enjoys the life of a country gentleman in his 16th-century Kentish farmhouse, he can't resist the lure of live performance.

His last show Lord Of The Mince clocked up a mammoth 140 dates and his new show Position Vacant Apply Within has already been around Kent at Canterbury, Margate and Folkestone venues, with Tunbridge Wells coming up next week.

He said: "I live here, so I tend to tour here first. It is always nice to be

able to get back to my own home after a gig and they are good audiences in Kent – they like a laugh."

"Touring is the thing I enjoy most – it is my own creation and I enjoy the creative process as you tour seeing the show evolve. I like making people laugh – it is a very good way to earn a living. It feels very good for my soul to send people home happy."

Reality television has also become fertile ground for Clary, who took the runners-up position in series two of BBC's flagship show Strictly Come Dancing and has now triumphed in the Big Brother house. Maybe his last reality experience?

"The Jungle? I don't know how appealing that is to me because there is a bit of humiliation involved in that. There was a bit of that in BB, but not too much. I think I have now made my contribution to the genre."

"You never forget about the cameras [in the house], but you learn to live with being watched all the time. Where the stress comes in is Big Brother controlling your emotions with the tasks, the rewards, the punishments and the nominations."

"You think you can keep in your mind it is just a TV show and it is all just nonsense, but you become institutionalised after a while. That is the hard part, as well as the claustrophobia. You have no concept of people watching, really – you don't know how it is being edited."

Clary is a firm believer that his successful stint on the Channel Five reality show has been extremely beneficial to him both in terms of lining up new work and as personal experience.

"The reward is you discover things about yourself and, without saying

that I have been on a journey, I think what I discovered is I judge people too quickly, and in fact all these people I thought were frightful when I first went in, there is actually something interesting about everybody if you can but wrinkle it out."

"There have been lots of TV types sniffing round and, yes, I think there will be something [a TV show] quite soon, but I won't tell you about it until it happens because you never know. BB has paid off for me in that way as well."

The comedian will be looking to stay friends with a few of his housemates now they are all on the outside.

"I will be friends with almost all of them because we have been through this shared experience, but Julie Goodyear in particular and Coleen Nolan is lovely. These are good people I feel I need to stay in touch with."

"I have got the tour, then panto in Southampton at Christmas, then some TV work and then another tour in the spring, and then I might write another book. So I can see the next couple of years being quite cheerful."

But Julian Clary would not be Julian Clary without an innuendo-filled line promoting his new show...

"Because I'm still considered to be quite a catch and because the UK is noted for its heterosexuals on the cusp, there's bound to be stiff competition. I will leave no straight unturned."

Position Vacant Apply Within comes to the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, October 6. Tickets, at £20, are available from the box office on 01892 530613 or online at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



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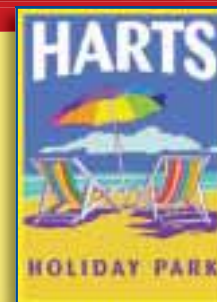


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FOOD & DRINK » Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

You want quiet and cosy by the sea? Head for the waterfront...

IT'S always a tad awkward when you walk into an empty restaurant in the evening.

The candles aren't lit, the romantic music is on mute and the staff don't quite know how to respond to a couple opening the door expecting a quiet yet busy main floor.

That's what faced us as we walked into The Waterfront in Deal, but we decided to make the most of it and were pleasantly surprised when some mood-setting music was put on through the stereo.

Having researched the restaurant online before we set out, we were disappointed to find that both of our favourites had been omitted from the menu despite remaining on its website.

This left my vegetarian companion with just two choices for her main and only one starter option – fortunately, the cooking saved the day.

Both my partner and I had the French-onion soup for starter (it was the only choice for me, too, as none of the others appealed); it was met with nods and noises of approval from both.

The starter came with several pieces of baguette, which accompanied the broth to perfection and got the taste buds tingling in anticipation of the main.

All was well and the waitress on duty was very polite and welcoming, although she maybe tried a little bit too hard to make up for the fact

RESTAURANT REVIEW



that we were the only couple in the restaurant.

I'm all for good service, but sometimes a *laissez-faire* approach can be just as good.

Being a Kent man, I opted for the Romney Marsh lamb shank, served with potatoes and seasonal vegetables, whereas my partner selected four-cheese tagliatelle.

The shank was well presented and tasted pretty good, although it was a bit too fatty in parts. The vegetables, although not to my personal taste, were cooked well and presented in a serving dish.

Although not the best meal I've ever had, it's good to see local restaurants serving the best

that the county has to offer.

On the other hand, the tagliatelle was a tad too rich for my companion's palate and left her with a bit of a dry mouth – but nothing a refreshing J20 couldn't deal with.

Both meals were reasonably priced and provided value for money – had there been another couple or small party in the restaurant, it would have enhanced the experience twofold.

The pudding proved a bit of an anticlimax, with a chocolate brownie tasting far from fresh and home-made, while the lemon meringue pie that I selected left much to be desired.

Although The Waterfront appeared able to house only a handful of diners, it has the potential to be a cute and cosy place to take someone to dinner on the lovely east Kent coast.

The setting, by Deal pier, is ideal and the chef appears to know what he or she is doing.

So if you're looking for a nice, quiet place to have dinner beside the sea, you should definitely have this on your list of options.

Just be warned, it might be quieter than you think on a Thursday evening.

The bill came to £49.60.

Dean Kilpatrick

**The Waterfront Restaurant,
29 Beach Street, Deal CT14 6HY
Telephone 01304 374338**

Blessed are the city cheese-makers

CHEESEMAKERS of Canterbury is officially one of the UK's top cheesemongers.

The Dargate team set up its cheese counter at The Goods Shed, Canterbury, two years ago to promote local cheese-makers and has now been highly recommended in the Best New Cheese Retailer class at the British Cheese Awards 2012.

The awards are the country's primary competition for the industry, attracting more than 900 entries from almost 200 British and Irish cheese-makers.

For more on Cheesemakers of Canterbury, email George Ward on ocheese@thegoodshed.co.uk or visit www.thecheeseweb.com.

Food web shows local produce helps towns

LOCAL food in Faversham supports 410 jobs and generates £9 million in trade.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England reported the impact that local food has on community and countryside in the town.

For the first time the CPRE report From Field To Fork builds a picture of the area's food web and the network of relationships between producers, outlets and consumers.

Thea Platt, of CPRE, said: "This is much more than reducing food miles. The web supports 410 local jobs in farming, production and at outlets, contributing to a turnover of £9 million into the economy."

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CHRISTMAS DINING

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Set deep in the Kent countryside, the boutique hotel and restaurant of Elvey Farm makes a statement... you instantly realise that this is somewhere special. Tucked away on a medieval farmstead, Elvey is made up of a cluster of buildings centred on a beautiful 16th-century barn overlooking sunny hills in the summer months, but it really comes into its own during the winter – and especially on the run-up to Christmas. The log fire crackles away in the bar, the restaurant is decked out in traditional Christmas garb, the frost glistens in the surrounding fields and the smells from the

Eat, drink, be merry and stay over at a festive Elvey Farm

kitchen are too tempting for words. The team prides itself on attention to detail and this restaurant in the heart of Darling Buds Of May country will have you reminiscing of those oh so classic holiday seasons with their hot, wholesome food and stylish decorations. The majority of ingredients used in Elvey's original dishes are sourced locally, home-made from scratch and hearty. Why not stay and make a night of it?

On the menu...
Christmas parties for groups of eight or more. Lunchtime, three courses for £15. Evening, three courses for £28. Rooms for £85 in December. Open for lunch from Wednesday to Sunday and every evening. To see the full menus, visit www.elveyfarm.co.uk.

How to book...
Elvey Farm, Elvey Lane, Pluckley TN27 0SU (phone 01233 840442, website www.elveyfarm.co.uk)

Why here...
The Woolpack Inn at Chilham boasts a warm, welcoming atmosphere, with its oak beams and inglenook fireplaces offering a glimpse into hospitality of yesteryear. A delicious home-cooked menu features ingredients from local producers. Fish comes off the boat in the morning and is on the plate by lunch service – you can't get fresher than that! Simple, honest food is the order of the day at the pub, which offers original dishes. A sample three-course meal could include local mushroom sautéed in garlic butter, finished with Stilton and cream and presented on a garlic ciabatta followed

With a menu fit for a king, The Woolpack will keep you warm

by home-made steak-and-Spitfire-ale pie, with home-made strawberry shortcake for dessert. This Shepherd Neame pub stands proud in the countryside, offering a warm stop-off for walkers and shoppers at nearby Canterbury. And good news for those of you looking to put your feet up this year, The Woolpack will be offering food on Christmas Day priced at £59.95 per person. Guests are seated between midday and 1.30pm.

On the menu...
Example: parsnip-and-sage soup with home-made breads, smoked duck with bacon lardons, or black pudding with an orange dressing on a herb salad. Roast turkey with all the trimmings, or fillet of beef Wellington with sauté potatoes and a selection of seasonal vegetables.

How to book...
The Woolpack Inn, The Street, Chilham CT4 8DL (phone 01227 730351, email woolpackinnchilham@btconnect.com)



Why here...
The Drum Inn is a 300-year-old building with a fascinating history of military memoirs and smuggler stories that are still told to this day in the pub placed at the heart of Kent. Many of its original features, including two working fireplaces, give the venue an inviting and relaxing atmosphere. The team at the Ashford pub serves award-winning guest ales that are changed regularly as well as traditional, freshly-cooked pub food seven days a week. Look out for the steak-night deals offering a steak meal and large glass of wine for just £14.95. Looking forward to the winter

Partying to the beat of the drum this Christmas time

holiday season, The Drum Inn will be hosting a Guy Fawkes night with traditional bonfire and fireworks. A hog roast will be available with tickets priced at £5. Family tickets are available. During Christmas time, the menu will offer a range of either traditional Christmas fare, as well as classic roasts and alternative options as well as vegetarian meals. The official Christmas menu will be available from next week via the pub's website or by phoning the pub directly.

On the menu...
The Drum Inn's day-to-day menu offers traditional food like beer Brie fritters, breaded whitebait, battered cod, 10oz rump steak, home-made steak-and-ale pie, the BBQ chicken melt, seabass or traditional bangers and mash. Prices range from £8.96 to £14 for a main course.

How to book...
The Drum Inn, Stone Street, Stanford North, Ashford TN25 6DN (phone 01303 812125, web www.thedruminn.com)

Why here...
The Waggon at Hale is a well-run family pub with good food, good wines and beers and a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere. There is always plenty going on at the Waggon, with themed nights, quizzes, charity events and live music. Families are always welcome and in fact in the pub's big family-friendly garden there is even a mini family farm featuring chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits and the star of the show, Crackling the miniature pig. Proprietor Emma Pearson said: "We do not try to be anything more than what we already are – a warm and friendly country pub serving

It's going to be a real cracker with delicious Waggon menu

real food and drink, selected, prepared and served to you by our friendly team." From November 29 to December 23 the Waggon will be offering its pre-Christmas menu priced at £22.95 per person. That price includes a starter, a main course and a dessert from an excellent range including traditional Christmas pudding, chocolate brownies, tasty French apple tart or, for the ultra-sweet-lovers out there, the raspberry-and-white chocolate cheesecake brûlée.

On the menu...
Choose a starter from the tomato-and-basil soup, the deep-fried Brie, the duck-and-orange pâté or prawn-and-crayfish salad. For mains, there is traditional roast turkey, roast topside of Scottish beef, mushroom-and-chestnut-stuffed plaice or stuffed red peppers.

How to book...
The Waggon, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP (phone 01634 400800, web www.waggonathale.co.uk)



the barbecue away, but the glorious yuletide season will soon be upon us, so get ready for the feast of the year



Why here...
The Black Horse is nestled nicely in the picturesque village of Monks Horton. This traditional oak-beamed pub and restaurant offers a taste of Kent at its very best. With ample parking and a roaring open fire in the cold winter months, this is a perfect venue for any occasion, whether it be a family meal or a Christmas party. The pub complements its surroundings perfectly, a picture-postcard property that is the epitome of what a country pub should be. It has an extensive beer garden to the rear, which looks out on to countryside, with an enclosed children's play area – an ideal

Yuletide parties catering for your needs at Black Horse

spot for both customers and their children. And the menu is not half bad either! Savour the freshly-prepared dishes with an Italian twist. Light lunches start from £3.50. The Wednesday lunch club offers two courses for £7.50. Or treat yourself to a Sunday roast, carved specially for you at £8.95. There is also personalised catering for all events. For more details about the Christmas party menu and details, phone the pub on 01303 812182.

On the menu...
Examples: tiger prawns sautéed with garlic and chilli butter, or chargrilled chorizo with mixed leaves, mint and cucumber dip, or seared scallops with bacon, mango chutney and salad. Seafood crumble (haddock, prawns and cod) in a thyme-and-garlic sauce.

How to book...
The Black Horse, Fiddling Lane, Monks Horton, Ashford TN25 6AP (web www.thebestpubinthe parish.com)

Why here...
On the village green opposite the church, the black-beamed, white-walled Red Lion could well be the perfect English-postcard image. Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, the warm, cosy atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night. And why not? With the traditional log fires, live entertainment and quality home-cooked food, this free house has something for everyone. There is a safe children's play area in the garden and a sunny front patio, making the pub a desirable location for families, parties and a romantic dinner. There is a good selection of

Kentish charm and good food make the Lion a top choice

real ales, wines and beers as well as a good choice of meals on the à la carte menu. The specials change with the seasons and the team has recently launched its Taste of Kent menu in the refurbished restaurant, serving dishes and ingredients sourced within a couple of miles of the pub. Food is served daily Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and 6pm-9pm. On Sunday it is served from midday to 8pm. Christmas-party-booking is now available.

On the menu...
Examples: slow-roasted lamb shank on the bone with a bed of mashed potatoes and minted peas, or horseshoe gammon steak with chunky chips and simply topped with double egg... or try the extra-mature 28-day-hung sirloin of beef on a bed of home-made wiljor fries.

How to book...
The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, web www.theredlion.org)



Why here...
The Black Pig at Staple near Canterbury is a fine 16th-century, timbered building that offers a large garden and plenty of free parking. It has a modern comfortable restaurant and bar area with a welcoming atmosphere and brilliant menu. The chefs at the pub provide an extensive range of home-cooked meals using locally-sourced food and this has helped to establish an excellent reputation for dining. The team has become famous for its 'Host your Roast' meals on Sundays at which the chefs cook the food but the customer carves the meat for a minimum of six guests.

Go the whole hog and eat at the Black Pig on the big day

There is a pre-Christmas menu this year running from December 1 to Christmas Eve, offering two courses for £22.50 and three courses from £25.50. There will also be a Christmas Day lunch sitting this year using the same menu, but guests will have the addition of a glass of fizz and canapés on arrival, Champagne sorbet in between starter and main course and no supplement on the port and Stilton option. The price is £65 per head.

On the menu...
Example: Home-made venison pâté with a redberry coulis or smoked salmon blinis with lime crème fraîche followed by roast turkey, chestnut stuffing, pigs in blankets, bread sauce, roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables finished by Baileys and chocolate cheesecake.

How to book...
Barnsole Road, Staple, near Canterbury CT3 1LE (phone 01304 813000, web www.theblackpig.co.uk)

Why here...
At the Farriers Arms in Mersham near Ashford, a warm welcome awaits you. This 17th-century oak-beamed free house is full of character and provides a cheerful welcome, with good food, a wide selection of real ales and plenty going on. This charming old country inn with its riverside garden, trout stream and great scenery offers entertainment from live music to murder mysteries. Enjoy fine dining in the Anvil restaurant with its à la carte menu prepared from the best local ingredients (vegetarian choices available). Celebrate Christmas with the Farriers Special Festive Menu from November 26 to

Warm up your winter with dinner at the Farrier's Anvil

December 24, offering three seasonal courses for £24.95 per head and a deposit of £10 per head. Make it an extra-special meal by ordering table presents and stocking-fillers. Party bookings are available from November 26 to December 9, with a free bottle of wine for every four diners. The Christmas Day menu offers adults six courses at £64.95 per head and children four courses at £32.95 per head. Booking in advance is essential.

On the menu...
Example: Three-bird terrine of pheasant, pigeon and chicken with beer bread and Christmas spiced chutney, or the hot winter vegetable broth, followed by slow-braised shoulder of lamb with fondant potatoes and seasonal honey-roasted root vegetables.

How to book...
The Farriers Arms, Mersham, Ashford TN25 6NU (phone 01233 720444, email info@thefarriersarms.com)



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Movers and shakers Free dance sessions

Stour Centre, Ashford

Open Thursday afternoons until November 8
01233 625 362
www.contrafusion.co.uk

FREE dance sessions are available at Ashford's Stour Centre throughout the autumn.

Kent County Council is backing the classes, which will be offering community dancing that everyone can do, from 17th-century styles to 21st-century ceilidh; there will be square dances, American contras, barn dances, waltzing and the polka.

The sessions will be run by local teachers John and Karen Sweeney and be available every Thursday afternoon from 2pm-3.30pm until November 8.

John said: "This type of dancing, apart from being great fun, contributes to a healthy lifestyle and helps people of all ages to get and stay fit."

Country star in da house Eve Selis

Maidstone house gigs

Tuesday, October 9
email housegigs@gmail.com
contact organisers for location

TO support the UK release of new album Family Tree, American country-singer Eve Selis will be touring the UK, stopping off in Maidstone. Championed by BBC Radio 2

DJ Bob Harris, Selis has begun to make a name for herself in the UK, having arguably already conquered her native music charts.

As winner of seven San Diego Music Awards in Americana and Adult Alternative, Selis is no stranger to basic live music and will be playing a number of her new tracks at her gigs.

Watch out for Selis's covers of Rubber And Glue, classic country heartbreaker Don't You Feel Lonesome and Leonard Cohen's majestic masterpiece Hallelujah.



The real deals A town's folk celebrated

Deal Maritime & Local History Museum

Saturdays through October
01304 381344

AN EXHIBITION celebrating people and organisations that have had a lasting effect on Deal has opened at the town's maritime museum.

A Hero To Deal, which is open every Saturday until the end of October, shows some of the people who have affected the town's development during the last 300 years.

One of those featured is Thomas Powell, who supported boatmen's attempts to rescue seamen drowning in the Great Storm of 1703.

Thomas Oakley is another in the exhibition after his part in breaking a cartel on the price of flour, which was causing hardship to the town's poor.

Entrance to the exhibition is included in the main ticket price of the museum at £3 for adults and £1.50 for children.



Paralympic pianist plays Lunchtime gig

The Woodville, Gravesend

Thursday, October 4
01474 337774
www.woodville.co.uk

OPENING the new season of The Woodville lunchtime concerts will be Nicholas McCarthy, the one-handed pianist who performed at the closing ceremony of the 2012

Paralympics Games

McCarthy was born in 1989 and only began to play the piano at the late age of 14.

Born without his right hand, he is one of a few left-handed pianists worldwide and has gone on to star in concerts and on TV, playing in front of royalty across the globe.

He studied at the Guildhall School of Music in London under acclaimed concert pianist Lucy Parham.

Most recently, McCarthy was awarded the prestigious international AMI Award for creative excellence in music.

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£29.50

Whether you are small party of two or a group of two hundred, reserve your place now, on the coolest guest list in 2012.

For bookings and further information contact our central booking office at:
Margate Winter Gardens Tel: 01843 296111
admin@margatewintergardens.co.uk



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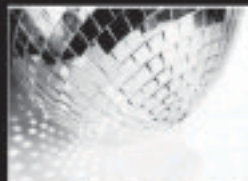


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NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER/DANCE AT THE MANOR - £120.00 pp

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE PAVILION £80.00 pp



Full details of all the Christmas and New Year events are available in our Christmas brochure which can be obtained by telephoning 01233 213020/213000 or visiting our website: www.eastwellmanor.co.uk

CHRISTMAS PARTIES LAS VEGAS CABARET NIGHTS

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Dickens World, Leviathan Way, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4LL

CHRISTMAS PARTIES



It's the coolest guest list of 2012 – be on it!

FOLLOWING the success of last year's Christmas party nights, Winter Wonderland is back at Margate's Winter Gardens, with Queens Hall transformed for yuletide.

On entry you will be greeted with an iced cocktail to kick-start your evening. A pianist will accompany you as you enjoy your three-course festive carvery at the beautifully-

decorated tables. Once you have enjoyed your sumptuous meal, it's time for you to be treated to some live entertainment before dancing the night away into the early hours guided by the resident Winter Gardens DJ.

Whether you're a small party of two or a group of 200, we'd love you to join us for a Christmas to remember for

just £29.50 per person (smart dress code will be enforced).

So what are you waiting for? Reserve your place now on the coolest guest list in 2012, from Monday, December 17, through to Saturday, December 22.

For bookings and further information, phone Margate Winter Gardens on 01843 296111 or email admin@margatewintergardens.co.uk.

Something for all tastes at a very special venue

THE Best Western Plus Dover Marina Hotel & Spa is a great place to celebrate Christmas.

Located on the seafront and within walking distance of the town square, the hotel is an ideal venue for that special Christmas party, festive lunch or short break.

Christmas party nights include dinner and music from the DJ. For lovers of Indian food, there are Bombay Christmas party nights on Thursdays.

At lunchtimes the hotel offers three-course Christmas Fayre lunches with festive table decorations, while on Thursday each week in December senior citizens dine for just £15.95 each.

Christmas Day lunch sees a special price for children under 12 and there is a visit from Father Christmas. The hotel also offers Christmas Eve dinner, Christmas Day dinner and Boxing Day lunch and dinner.

Special accommodation rates are available. For enquiries and bookings, phone 01304 203633 or email events@dovermarinahotel.co.uk.



Lord it up this festive period at the manor

EASTWELL Manor is a fabulous winter wonderland setting for a Christmas party, with the historic manor house and The Pavilion beautifully decorated for the festive season with giant Christmas trees and hundreds of lights.

The party nights are held at The Pavilion and have either casino tables or Wii games to entertain you following your three-course dinner. The resident DJ will be playing music to suit all tastes and you will be well looked after from the glass of bubbly on arrival until your departure.

Why not stay the night in one of the delightful mews cottages? If you prefer a quieter celebration, then private dining may be the answer. You can eat in one of the beautiful private dining rooms, where eight to 80 guests can be catered for. The head chef has put together some festive menus.

Phone the reservations team on 01233 213000/213020, email enquiries@eastwellmanor.co.uk or visit www.eastwellmanor.co.uk.



Take a magical step back to the world of Dickens

THIS Christmas, Dickens World at Chatham Maritime is proud to present truly magical entertainment for everyone.

Entry to the Christmas launch is free and the festive celebrations commence on Saturday, November 17.

Join in then for a chance to enter the beautifully-decorated attraction and view the live performance of A Christmas

Carol in the Dickens World courtyard, complete with a magnificent indoor snowfall.

Events this Christmas include the family pantomime Dick Whittington, with performances throughout December.

Visit Santa's Winter Wonderland and imagine a special ice-rink for children to play on, the workshop cabins

where Santa and Mrs Merry Christmas and the helper elves Jingle, Jangle and Twinkle help all the children with their Christmas lists.

Imagine gingerbread-making and story time with Mrs Merry Christmas in a special place where it's always Christmas.

For more information, visit www.dickensworld.co.uk or phone 01634 890421.

YOUR WEEKEND

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To be included on this page, please email features@kosmedia.co.uk

A taste of the cathedral city Eat in the park

Canterbury Food and Drink Festival

Fri to Sun, September 28-30
01227 378100

THE Canterbury Food and Drink Festival returns to Dane John Gardens for 2012, celebrating the city's finest producers and purveyors of drink and craft.

As well as a huge array of tastes and smells, this year's festival features some great entertainment for all the family, including the ever-popular Little Lounge area, which offers activities to keep even the youngest entertained.

New to the festival this year is the Green Hop Beer Tent, which, alongside more than 20 of the county's breweries, will be making its own versions of ale, fusing hops picked only 12 hours previously.

Cheese-lovers should not miss the Kentish Bluebell Cheese this year.

For more information on times and stalls at the festival, visit www.canterbury.co.uk.



Tumbling into the big top Human circus

Jackson's Field, Rochester

Tue to Sun, October 9-14
0844 415 5228
www.netherlandscircus.eu

MEDWAY families are in for a huge treat when one of Europe's biggest circuses comes to town.

The Netherlands National Circus will set up its big top at

Jackson's Field as part of its gigantic all-human circus on tour.

The team is a Dutch institution and has been entertaining crowds since 1948 with innovative acts and top-quality human performers.

In 2012 the circus features the Princess of Balance, Desiree, who can fire arrows with her feet, as well as the triple-level aerial daredevils The Flying Aces.

Springboarders The Cretzu Troupe will be joined by the Mambo Jambo Troupe with its human pyramid.



It's the best of British Military wives return

Leeds Castle, near Maidstone

Saturday, July 13, 2013

Tickets on sale now

www.heritageevents.co.uk

AFTER the huge success of its 2012 summer gig, the Military Wives Choir has agreed to return to Leeds Castle, above, in 2013.

The choir has had an extraordinary year, with its debut single and album hitting the No 1 spot in the UK charts and a series of performances to royalty, dignitaries and celebrities, including a very special one at The Queen's Diamond Jubilee event.

The group will take part in the Best of British classical concert, as it did this year. This will also feature the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Central Band of the RAF.

The ticket price is reduced to £32 picnic style and £42 seated until Monday, December 31.

A sensational return to 60s Farewell, Rick!

The Woodville, Gravesend

Saturday, October 27

01474 337774

www.woodvillehalls.com

THE Sensational Sixties heads to Kent with a quintessentially 60s line-up packed with nostalgia and hit-makers.

The Tremeloes, Herman's Hermits, The Union Gapuk

and The Ivy League head to The Woodville with a stream of classic songs ready to be unleashed on the fans.

The 2013 tour marks a special celebration as it will be the last chance to see Tremeloes guitarist Rick Westwood, right, in action as he retires after the tour.

A fact not many will know is that in 1961 Decca Records auditioned two bands to receive a three-year contract; those bands were The Tremeloes and The Beatles. It was The Tremeloes who won the contract.



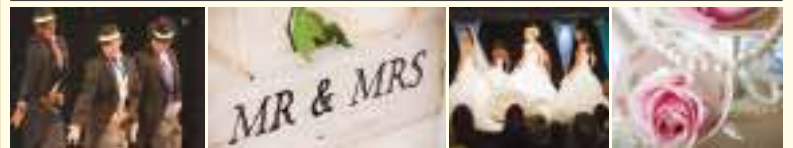
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If you have any questions regarding The Wedding Show 2012 or Kent BRIDE please contact Lisa Smith 01303 817057 or Tracy Morgan 01303 817083

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WWW.THEWEDDINGSHOW.CO.UK

Homes & Gardens

Bathrooms for the less able

With medical advances and a greater awareness of how to live a healthy life, many people are not only living longer but are also living fuller lives. The advent of technology such as tablet computers has further revolutionised the way we communicate, shop and even view the world.

Things such as high fashion, foreign products and eclectic objets d'art, which were once the preserve of the rich or well connected, are now available to anyone with broadband. As a result, we expect more and compromise less.

In practical terms, however, an ageing population brings its own challenges. Fortunately, modern bathrooms have come a long way, both in terms of design and functionality – especially when it comes to bathrooms for people with disabilities or reduced mobility.

Instead of being limited to a bathroom that resembles a disabled toilet in a hospital or institution, a whole world of colour, design and practicality is now at your fingertips.

With choice can come the anxiety of selecting the right product, but bathroom specialist Ripples is used to working with occupational therapists to ensure it is able to advise and supply bathroom or shower equipment and furniture that is both attractive and fit for purpose.

Dean Chesterton, director of Ripples Canterbury, outlined some of the products designed to help less able people create their perfect bathroom. He said: "We meet many clients who are looking to create a bathroom that they can use



independently without compromising on style. At Ripples our comprehensive ranges will ensure you achieve the best from your home. We have a range of items to help, from easy-access shower enclosures to lower baths, baths with a small seating area inside, wet-room floors with level access and thermostatic showers.

"Other amenities include toilets that are raised by 50mm, which gives better flexibility on the knees, as well as wall-hung basins, which can be fitted lower to suit the requirements of people in

wheelchairs, or for those who prefer to sit in front of the basin while washing."

Mr Chesterton also recommends installing solid-chrome grab-bars in the correct place to assist lifting and sitting and that are both sturdy and look good.

"Seats in the shower area, or positioning the shower head lower down, can help people wash their bodies easily without having to get too much water on their head," he said.

Other design adjustments include flooring,



WET ROOM: Greater accessibility is available

such as non-slip tiles or hard vinyl, which can help to reduce the hazard of slipping. The majority of floor tiles used in these kinds of bathrooms are textured, but a clear anti-slip coating can be added to flooring if required.

Specially-adapted bathrooms can be quite expensive. However, some customers are able to claim zero VAT on most products, which can mean a saving of 20 per cent per purchase.

Ripples has built up a strong reputation for designing inclusive bathrooms and understands that clients are individual, so the team listens to requirements and always pays attention to detail to deliver a complete personal service designed with only you in mind.

The Canterbury showroom offers a relaxing environment in which to build your bathroom scheme with an expert designer on hand to advise customers.

■ **For information on Ripples, or advice on designing a bathroom, visit www.ripples.ltd.uk or phone 01227 459525**

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SALE PRICE £1839



G Plan Washington Large Sofa
RRP £2228
SALE PRICE £1785

Old Charm Traditional Oak
Oval Table RRP £ 1439 **SALE PRICE £1150**
Dining Chair RRP £349 **SALE PRICE £279**
Matching unit RRP £2855 **SALE PRICE £2284**



Parker Knoll Denver
Large Sofa RRP £1419 **SALE PRICE £1135**
Recliner Chair RRP £1157 **SALE PRICE £925**



Alston settee Large Sofa
was £1189

SALE PRICE £995



Parker Knoll
Albany 3 Seater Sofa RRP £1419 **SALE PRICE £1135**
Armchair RRP £854 **SALE PRICE £683**



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Advertiser's Announcement

Preparing for winter and keeping warm with Heat Design

2012 had the wettest summer for 100 years but whatever the skies throw at us next a trip to Heat Design is sure to help you keep prepared and - most importantly - warm this winter. With friendly, passionate and independent advice, Heat Design in Canterbury has everything you need to get your family ready for the winter.

From traditional to contemporary styling, Heat Design stock hundreds of different models from leading brands such as Chesney's, Hunter, Euroheat, Barbas, Dovre, Yeoman, Stovax, Rais and Woodwarm. Some larger models can also heat hot water.

If you are considering fireplace

reproduced and hand finished for a classic period feel to your room. A surround can be used to create a traditional, classic setting with a wood stove, period inset or an open fire.

Another option is gas. Gas fires provide a centre piece for a room. Push button convenience with contemporary gas fires enables them to be turned on and off, up and down at the touch of a remote control, combining ease of use with great modern flame effects and high efficiency levels.

From the traditional cottage to the ultra chic apartment our huge range of gas fires means that there is one to suit any interior. Our expert staff are on hand to guide you to the right choice and help you through buying and installing a new gas fire. Heat Design also stock a range of the latest gas fuel efficient fires from top brands such as Gazco and Bellfires.

A beautiful cast iron cooker can be a focal point of the kitchen, at the centre of the home. At Heat Design we do everything we can to help you choose the range cooker best suited to you. We stock a selection of range cookers from the best manufacturers including Aga, Rayburn, Steel Cuisine and Big Blue.

The Rayburn allows you to integrate your range cooker into a hot water system and heat your home as well as cook. If you are considering purchasing a Rayburn, they are offering £500 off all their models until October 15th and our in-house Raburn Guild heating engineer can guide you through installation into existing systems.

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options, we have many on display in our showroom, beautifully handcrafted in stone, marble and solid timber, from brands such as Chesney's, Montpellier Marble and Farmington. If you want to restore a period house to its former glory or create an authentic look for a more modern home you can be confident that you will find what you are looking for; from a simple timeless design to blend in with any decor or select a mantelpiece faithfully



Homes & Gardens

Make the most of buy-to-let

PROPERTY across Kent will continue to produce the highest total returns over the next 10 years for buy-to-let investors, according to Rental Britain, a report released by Savills in conjunction with Rightmove, writes *Katy Croft*.

This year, with a large proportion of prospective purchasers priced out of the buying market, the number of privately-rented homes in Britain has reached 4.8 million – up from just 2.5m in 2002.

A surge in demand from tenants over the past year has seen rental yields increase by an average of 5.2 per cent. Savills is forecasting rents to rise by a further 20 per cent on average over the next five years and, with house prices increasing and mortgage availability still low, it seems there has never been a better time to invest in the buy-to-let market than now.

When considering a buy-to-let property investment, choosing a desirable location is imperative for a number of reasons, not least because a property is defined by its locale.

Good transport links, such as the M2 and M20 and the high-speed rail service, are essential and properties in commuter belts are in high demand, ensuring higher rental yields.

Lucian Cook, director of residential research at Savills, said: "Rental incomes in Kent remain consistently strong. The report shows Sevenoaks currently commands the highest monthly rental income for a two-bedroom apartment in Kent, averaging just under £1,000 per month, with



STYLISH: Berkley Homes' Ryewood showhome

cities like Canterbury offering strong rental yields, too. House-price growth prospects in Kent are also expected to be stronger than the UK as a whole, and towards the top end of the range expected for the South East. That means prospective total returns are likely to be attractive to cash-rich investors."

Investors looking to purchase a buy-to-let property in Sevenoaks have the opportunity to look at Ryewood, a new development launched by award-winning developer Berkeley.

Ryewood offers a range of properties, including one- and two-bedroom apartments and two-, three-, four- and five-bedroom houses with contemporary specifications, all set among landscaped gardens.

It is next to a Kent Wildlife Trust reserve and just a five-minute car journey from Sevenoaks and a few minutes' walk from Duntun Green train station, from where London is only 29 minutes away.

All the homes at Ryewood have detailing such as chrome switches and sockets, downlighters and flooring included throughout.

The individually-designed, fully-fitted kitchens come with integrated appliances including a hob, cooker, fridge-freezer and dishwasher. Many of the apartments have a private balcony or terrace and all the houses have a garden.

Sevenoaks has a historic high street and a selection of places to dine out, as well as plenty of chic boutiques and country pubs in the surrounding area.

The countryside lies on the doorstep, while golfers have the choice of two prestigious clubs, Wildernes and Knole Park.

Tina Dedman, sales and marketing director at Berkeley Homes, said: "With current research indicating an estimated 'yield' on investment properties now running at an average of 6 per cent across the UK, more than double the amount investors can typically earn on a savings account, current market property prices and lower interest rates make now a great time for landlords to invest in a buy-to-let property."

Apartments at Ryewood are priced from £249,950, while houses are from £314,950.

For further information, you can visit www.ryewood.co.uk or phone 01732 740402.

Which is the best bed? Survey has an answer

A BED from Lenleys furniture supplier, based in Canterbury, has been given high praise from a leading voice in retail.

Members of Which?, the UK's largest consumer body, gave its luxury Vi-Spring bed the highest satisfaction score for a second year running, beating all other mattresses.

The survey gave five stars for both comfort and durability and 85 per cent overall satisfaction.

"We have a laugh with our customers when they try them out because they never want to get up again," said Denis Brophy, who has been buying beds for Lenleys in Roper Road, Canterbury, for eight years.

He said the secret came from Vi-Spring's pioneering pocket-sprung mattress and the fact each bed was individually made by master craftsmen to suit customers' exact requirements.

The mattresses are made from pure British fleece wool, mohair, soft cotton and silk, and the beds come with a range of upholstery fabrics, headboards and divans.

"I can honestly say I'm working on my research day and night," said Mr Brophy.

"I feel very comfortable recommending these beds because I sleep soundly in my own."





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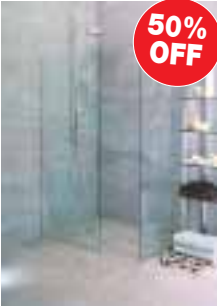
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400	1200	2026	£173.90	£86.95
500	800	1530	£143.76	£70.95
600	800	1774	£146.49	£72.95
600	1000	2491	£166.18	£82.95
500	1200	2423	£176.59	£87.95
600	1200	2820	£182.49	£90.95
600	1400	3184	£25.33	£128.95
600	1600	3548	£292.75	£145.95
500	1800	3570	£300.24	£149.95
600	1800	4151	£313.34	£155.95

Curved Rails Chrome Finish*

Width (mm)	Height (mm)	BTU	List Price	Sale Price
400	1200	2086	£180.67	£89.95
500	800	1575	£149.18	£73.95
600	800	1827	£151.92	£75.95
600	1000	2565	£172.99	£85.95
500	1200	2495	£183.60	£90.95
600	1200	2904	£189.74	£93.95
600	1400	3279	£268.75	£133.95
600	1600	3654	£304.75	£151.95
500	1800	3676	£315.60	£156.95
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Glass thickness	Height	Width	TKM Price
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8mm square	1400	800-825	£169.95
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High gloss white finish, fully assembled. All doors feature soft close hinges. Complete with ceramic one-piece basins, perfect for larger bathrooms.

Width mm	Depth mm	Doors	Drawers	TKM PRICE
850	480	3	2	£204.95
1050	485	2	3	£265.95
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1700x700mm

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Vanity Units

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Width mm	Depth mm	Doors	Drawers	TKM PRICE
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550	440	2	0	£132.95
650	450	2	0	£153.95
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Homes & Gardens

The final tasks before onset of

LUCY'S PATCH

by LUCY HEWETT



September has been a mixed bag, but I've been making the most of the sunshine as there are a few projects I would like to finish before the colder weather sets in – not that bad weather should stop me doing jobs in the garden, of course.

One of the projects we want to complete is our koi pond area, which we are giving a make-over. We created it about 12 years ago and the surrounding shrubs had all got to big and woody so we have relocated or pulled them out, revealing some lovely, long-forgotten rocks.

I have to admit that I did have some help from my gardener Shaun (The Garden Guy, based in Conyer). He did a lot of the heavy work, including the unenviable task of tackling the bamboo – I had planted this long before I knew anything about invasive plants, but Shaun has managed to dig up all the roots... we hope!

Once all the shrubs were cleared, we put down black plastic (anything to stop extra weeding – my new gardening policy) and planted with some low-level, semi-shade-loving plants, including ferns, hellebores, heucheras, *Vinca*



UNVEILING TREASURES: Lucy rediscovered some attractive rocks surrounding her 12-year-old pond

minor, hostas and then a few larger specimens: a couple of acers, a large grass and a forsythia.

Next we are going to cover the plastic with

slate chipping, power-hose and repoint all the paths and put up a new fence.

I only bought the plants that I didn't already

have elsewhere in my garden, but to save some money I will be dividing some existing plants to fill remaining gaps. Dividing is a great way of creating new plants from old, but if you are not sure about exactly how to do it here are some instructions...

The way to know if your plants needs dividing includes any or both of the following:

- If they are dead in the middle of the clump or have stopped flowering well, with a circle of young growth only around the edges.
- If the clump has outgrown its spot and started invading neighbouring plants, or if the clump has grown itself out of the ground.

1. Cut down the stems as low as possible so they don't get in your way – dig around the clump, then prise it out of the soil.

2. Divide up the healthy young growth either by inserting two forks centrally and prising apart, or use a spade to slice up the clump. I tend to 'mis-shoot' with a spade, so I prefer forks or my hands if it is a tuber-type plant.

3. If replanting straight away, improve the soil by forking in some garden compost or manure and a handful of fertiliser – or pot the new plants up for planting at a later date.

Jobs to do this month

Birds They have been pretty sedentary during the summer but will now start to turn back to the bird-tables and feeders to stock up for the approaching colder months, so start stocking up feeders again – but before you do, give



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Homes & Gardens

winter

everything a good clean – many birds die each year from parasites and bacteria that can build up in feeders and water-containers.

Lawn care Reseed bare patches during a wet spell and apply autumn lawn-feed – giving it attention now will give the new grass roots a chance to establish before the cold weather sets in. Use a fork to spike lawns to give them aeration. Autumn is a good time to lay a lawn if you have an area you want to turf or seed.

Pots If your summer containers still have some life left in them and are not ready to be replanted with winter flowers yet but could do with a bit of a bolster, plant a few mini mums (baby chrysanthemums) to add colour.

Hopefully you have chosen which ones you want from the massive selection of spring-flowering bulbs, so get planting now for beautiful, much-appreciated displays in the spring.

Also... install a water butt if you have not already done so to collect winter rain.

Give hedges a last trim and tidy-up to keep them neat through winter.

Take advantage of dry weather by painting fences, sheds and other wooden features with a preservative.

Collect leaves as they fall and add to the compost bin – water and leave for a year to make excellent leaf mould.

In the fruit and veg patch

Pick all remaining tomatoes, placing green ones in a paper bag with a few red ones to speed up



AUTUMN GARDEN: Pumpkins have done well this year. Lucy has planted ferns and heucheras among the other greenery by her remodelled pond

the ripening process, or make some green tomato chutney.

As you clear and dig over veg beds, consider planting some green manure, eg Phacelia. Green manures are useful as they mean you do not need to weed the bed and they protect the soil from erosion over winter, reducing any leaching of mineral and nutrients and also protecting soil structure; they also boost nutrients when they are dug into the soil in spring.

Once you cut down your bean and pea plants, leave the roots to be dug into the soil as they provide extra nitrogen for future crops.

As temperatures fall, greenhouse-shading paint should be removed and any blinds lifted to allow in as much of the remaining light as possible. Cloche any tender herbs or salad.

Remember to make a note of what you planted where so you do not plant the same things in the same place again next year.

Sow... broad beans for early crops next May and June and sweet peas if you have not already done so.

Harvest Continue harvesting squashes and pumpkins and store for winter use.

My veg patch has been disappointing this year

– things just didn't seem to get going, or they have been three weeks later than usual, which had some advantages as I was back from holiday in time to enjoy the benefits of some crops.

So I am still reaping the rewards of the ever-faithful runner beans, cucumbers (Burpless Tasty) and courgettes. At least I can always rustle up a meal of some sort from that lot – a veg-patch omelette is always a favourite.

Pumpkins have done amazingly well this year – I've never had such big ones. Roll on Halloween... we're going to have some amazing carvings.



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Major names at book fest Riot of authors

Folkestone Book Festival
Fri to Sat, November 2-10
01303 858500
www.folkestonebookfest.com

FORMER Prime Minister
Sir John Major has been
announced as the lead name
at this year's Folkestone Book
Festival.

The politician and author

brings his new book *My Old Man: A Personal History of Music Hall* to the festival on Friday, November 9, at the Saga Pavilion.

Other writers making the trip to the event include Richard And Judy television presenter Judy Finnegan, broadcast personality Pam Ayres and historian Robert Skidelsky.

Also talking will be photographer Mary McCartney, daughter of Beatles frontman Paul McCartney and his late wife Linda.

See online for dates and locations of talks.

Rewinding the garage clock List of legends

**Whitstable Brewery Bar,
East Quay, Whitstable**
01227 772157
facebook.com/thebrewerybar

A HOST of garage legends is heading to Whitstable in the run-up to Christmas.

The Brewery Bar presents its UK Garage Series, with DJ Pied Piper, known for the song *Do You Really Like It?*, starting things off on Saturday, October 20. On Saturday, November 24, DJ Luck and MC Neat take to the decks with their hit *Little Bit Of Luck*.

Shortly before Christmas, on Saturday, December 15, arguably the biggest stars of the series head to the seaside venue when Oxide and Neutrino arrive, famous for being part of the *So Solid Crew* and a series of huge hits including *No Good For Me*.

On Saturday, January 26, The Artful Dodger is sure to feature his No 1 hit *Re-rewind*.

Tickets will be available on the bar's Facebook group.



See dancing royalty Anton Du Beke

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Wednesday, January 23, at 7.30pm
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

STRICTLY Come Dancing star Anton du Beke will take his solo show on the road with his dance partner Erin Boag, both pictured above.

The new show *Anton & Erin Go to Hollywood* will see the king and queen of the ballroom head to The Marlowe in Canterbury in January.

The UK's favourite dance duo pay tribute to the golden years of the film musicals.

Sassy tunes, sensational choreography and sparkling costumes conjure up all the fizz and razzmatazz of glamorous Hollywood, presented by Anton and Erin with their trademark charm, wit and ballroom magic.

The dancing isn't bad, either!

A noble cause Comedy Ross eyes up Wells

**Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells**
Thu and Fri, October 1-2
01892 530613

AFTER a two-year break, Geordie comic Ross Noble is back doing what he does best with a new live tour.

Famed for his fluid, freewheeling style of stringing

anecdotes together like one long sentence, Noble creates comedy gold from fragments of random nonsense.

The wild-haired funny-man is one of the top comedians on the British circuit, as he has been for the last 10 years, but he continues to shun stadium venues for more intimate settings.

This is your chance to see the acclaimed stand-up close and personal in his new show *Mindblender*.

Tickets are priced at £25 and available from www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



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Combination of factors sees asking prices slump again

HOMEOWNERS putting their property on the market in recent weeks dropped their average asking prices for the third consecutive month: down by 0.6 per cent (-£1,402) on the month and 4.6 per cent (-£11,377) on the quarter.

The latest survey from Rightmove shows the average price of a property coming to market this September is virtually unchanged on a year ago at £234,858 (+0.7 per cent).

Prices this month were also unchanged from five years ago at £235,176 – down just 0.1 per cent.

The figures show the huge impact the

recession has had on the market as, in contrast, average asking prices in the previous five years from September 2002 to September 2007 saw a 55 per cent rise.

Rightmove said homeowners in the south, including Kent, cash-rich buyers and buy-to-let investors had been the property winners over the past five years, while those who have suffered included trapped

renters, mortgage prisoners, down-trodden down-traders, and sellers in the north.

Miles Shipside, housing market analyst at Rightmove, said: "Summer sellers have had some stiff competition, not only from competing sellers chopping their prices but also from the Olympics extravaganza, which has been more compelling for many than viewing property."

"Property coming to market is £11,000 cheaper than it was three months ago and there will be many hoping this gives a boost to the autumn selling season if buyers leave their

starting blocks in a hurry and join the traditional rush to see in the festive season in a new home."

Kent house prices remained stable and held their value, with factors such as the high-speed rail link making them the county attractive to London workers looking to move into larger premises for the same price as a home in the capital.



Kentish company recognised as the UK's top homebuilder



UNITED! Nick Stonley, managing director of United House, clutches the award; he is with colleagues and TV presenter George Clarke, right

SWANLEY company United House has won Homebuilder of the Year, the top accolade in the Sunday Times British Homes Awards.

The company also won Apartment Building of the Year and Housing Project of the Year.

The specialist developer, contractor and investor was chosen for its commitment to

sustainable regeneration, the establishment of new communities, strong architectural design and landscaping, innovative construction methods and build quality, plus environmental initiatives.

Jeffrey Adams, group chief executive of United House, said: "We have had a record year for awards and beaten some of the leading names in the industry."

"We have a highly-talented and dedicated team at United House who take a bespoke approach to external design and interior specification."

"Outstanding architecture, meticulous attention to detail, our highly-skilled in-house construction team and a real environmental agenda make our developments stand out from the crowd."

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Mercedes M-Class is top of the class in the SUV sector

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FORD has secured a double launch for its Focus ST performance flagship.

Having arrived in showrooms last month, it has now taken a second bow with a starring role in the current blockbuster film *The Sweeney*.

Billed as a tribute to the legendary 1970s TV series following the escapades of hard-nut Flying Squad detectives Jack Regan and George Carter, the film upholds a tradition of using Fords in those shows.

Prime-time TV audiences saw a succession of Ford Granadas, Consuls and Cortinas roaring around London streets, and film-goers will now see the modern-day Regan (Ray Winstone) and George Carter (Ben Drew aka Plan B) update the thrills and spills in a black Focus ST.

That the ST can walk the talk here is not in doubt; the basic Focus chassis is one of the best in the class for handling and has been tweaked further for the ST, while power comes through a 2.0-litre 250PS EcoBoost engine offering 0-62mph acceleration in 6.5 seconds – it won't stretch credibility if the onscreen villains do fail to make a clean getaway.

Apart from black, the ST is available in five other colours, including Tangerine Scream and Spirit Blue, and priced from £21,995 in five-door format – as used in the film – with a stylish ST estate selling from £23,095.

Official combined fuel consumption is a whisker under 40mpg and standard spec includes body kit, alloys and the usual toys, though you must trade up to ST-2 trim (from £23,495) to get part leather upholstery, and flagship ST-3 (£25,495) to get full leather.

There is no mention yet of whether you will ever be able to buy the ST, or indeed any Focus in an eye-catching three-door format like its arch-rival, the Vauxhall Astra (see our Astra VXR review later in this section).

Despite that decision, though, the Focus remains a top-five seller in the UK, and the model – in all its forms across various national markets – is currently the world's best-selling car.

According to data from IHS Automotive, the Ford Focus sold 489,616 units in the first half of 2012. The nearest competitor, Toyota Corolla, sold 462,187.

The Ford Focus first appeared in Europe in 1998, won the 1999 European Car of the Year award and was very much targeted at this region of the world.

Ford's ambition has grown since and the current, third-generation, Focus launched last year was designed as a 'world car' to rival the likes of the Corolla.

The UK range starts at £13,995 for the five-door. However, the estate sells as more of a premium product from £17,300 even though, surprisingly, Ford has not chosen to give it an upmarket label like rivals, which wear names like sportswagon or sports tourer.



FORD FOCUS ST

PREVIEW

Price:	£21,995
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Best rival:	Vauxhall Astra VXR

Ford relives Sweeney legend



QUICK OFF THE MARK:

Ford's new Focus ST has had the ideal start to its launch, taking a starring role in the movie *The Sweeney*, where it can be seen flying around the screen driven by actor Ray Winstone

DON'T LIKE

... the fact that a sporty three-door Focus body is not (yet?) offered. This lack could hurt ST sales more than those for Focus 'cooking' versions.

NOT SURE

... the basic ST is generous enough yet, but Ford is a past master at judging the market, so expect more goodies added later to sustain demand.

REALLY LIKE

... the ST's balance of practicality plus power. It won't matter too much to Regan and Carter, but flexibility does count with most family users.

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* Not available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line models, Astra BiTurbo 5dr and Sports Tourer models. Ampera or VXR8. ** Vauxhall Deposit Contribution not available on Corsa SXi or Mokka. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee or Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH1 1SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 1 October 2012. *Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. *Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall Deposit Contribution. Insurance offer available on Corsa SXi models only, and only in conjunction with Flexible Finance. First year insurance offer available on Corsa SXi only. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd.

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11 11	CORSA EXCITE 1.2 3dr, Pepper Dust.....	£9,995
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* Available 01/11/2012

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Vauxhall tames The Beast – a bit

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LIKE Dr Frankenstein, Vauxhall unleashed a monster with its first attempt to create a VXR performance flagship for the Astra.

With a turbocharged 240PS (236bhp) engine under the bonnet, applying all that power via the front wheels was always going to be a struggle. Sure enough, the VXR's steering wheel bucked in your hands even with judicious throttle use. The ride was rock hard, too.

I couldn't help but draw the Frankenstein parallel at the time and call it 'The Beast', and I feared the Vauxhall freak-lab had incubated another when I heard the next-generation Astra VXR would have even more horsepower – housing an awesome 280PS (275bhp) to make it the most powerful car in its class.

You can see the potential PR pitfall, had Vauxhall 'bottled it' and settled for less power, but it seemed a risky course to boost the bhp further, especially as the original VXR seemed to spark a rethink at Vauxhall about the VXR sub-brand.

This was that VXRs must have performance power and handling but not so that driver and passengers suffer all the time.

So the current Insignia and Corsa VXRs are quite useable everyday cars with the capability to do much more when opportunity arises – in short, the Rottweiler trots at heel until the driver unleashes it.

Following the same philosophy, at least to some extent, the new Astra VXR is tipped to become Vauxhall's best-selling VXR variant.

True, it does have an extra dollop of power compared with its (2005-10) predecessor, but Vauxhall has fitted a limited slip differential this time to enable the Astra to apply as much power as possible without hopping from one front wheel to the other, causing the dreaded 'torque steer' for which the old car was infamous.

It's not a complete cure, but the torque steer is milder and very much at extremes of power

VAUXHALL ASTRA VXR: PRICE £26,995

FACT FILE

Driving appeal: ★★★★★

Image: ★★★★★

Space: ★★★★★

Value: ★★★★★

Running costs: ★★★

Reliability: ★★★★★

How green?: ★★

Road tax: £250 (£460 yr1)

Best rival: VW Scirocco R

Kent dealers:

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Whitfield, Dover 01304 827500

Broadstairs 01843 600777

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Ashford 01233 504604

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Sittingbourne 01795 476222

Hidsons

Rainham 01634 376526



THE BEAST:

Tamed enough to allow a more comfortable drive, the new Astra VXR is still something of a monster when it comes to power

output in a straight line. Cornering is an enthusiast's delight, though, with the VXR wanting to oversteer or step out – predictably, mind you – like a rear-wheel-drive car rather than run wide as a front-wheel-drive set-up should.

I'm sure it's great fun on a track as you can also fiddle with the tautness of the suspension by selecting Sport mode or the extreme VXR setting.

But this new Astra is as much about looks as performance, definitely making the most of the stunning three-door Astra GTC design from Vauxhall/Opel's British design guru Mark Adams and his team.

Sitting on huge 19- or 20-inch alloys, wearing a smart yet discreet body kit and kicked-up rear spoiler, the VXR looks the part and the cabin is sharp, too, with bespoke VXR sports seats and quality interior.

And it's surprisingly practical, for the three-door or GTC Astra body also offers decent head, legroom and boot space for this class; set the suspension on Normal mode and this road-going rocket can actually function as a family runabout.

Apart from still being a bit of a handful for the unwary in wet conditions, I would also mark the car down for its fiddly electronic parking brake. The auto stop/start seems an oddity, too, if welcome in a car that is clearly not intended to be eco-friendly.

Vauxhall sees its rivals as the VW Scirocco R and the Renault Megan Renaultsport, but the new VXR beast is the bargain thanks to looks and generous standard kit.

Of course, it has another role to play, though – as a halo car to drive sales of the no-less-impressive-looking Astra GTC line-up.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Real-world eco star

BMW'S 320d Efficient Dynamics Auto is What Car?'s Green Car of the Year 2012.

What Car? editor-in-chief Chas Hallett said it was "a remarkable car that delivers 56mpg in the real world, while company car users will be taxed on its low emissions of just 110g/km of CO₂. BMW has created a car that delivers great environmental credentials without compromise."



Sharper line from Toyota

TOYOTA is using the Paris Motor Show as a showcase for a much-needed change of style, highlighted by a sharp new front-end treatment.

The standard-bearers are rakish new versions of the Auris and Auris Touring Sports (estate) to be built in the UK and contest the family hatchback sector and of the Verso seven-seat midi-MPV, pictured.



Three doors go into the i30

HYUNDAI has surprised the family-hatchback market with a new three-door version of its second-generation i30, joining the five-door and estate models.

The ambitious Korean marque did not use this format during the life of the previous car but clearly feels it needs a sportier option, though it is not expected to take more than 10 per cent of i30 sales.

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MOTORING

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Big Merc powerhouse leaves past behind

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

I'll be honest – I thought the original Mercedes-Benz M-Class a bit of a joke.

Seemingly thrown together at a factory built specially in the US to service the most obvious and irresponsible car market for gas-guzzling 4x4s, it was expensive and cumbersome.

Nevertheless, M-B claims the M-Class has become the world's favourite luxury SUV and the third-generation car, launched earlier this year, has made me eat my words; it's far better-screwed-together, better looking and, while I can't imagine they care much about this in America, the mainstay models for the UK are very fuel-efficient.

Furthermore, I can even forgive the big, bad thirsty V8 AMG version some of its non-PC excesses since it's a truly great drive, physically and aurally. Up to now, the Range Rover Sport, Porsche Cayenne and BMW X5 have had the sporty luxury SUV segment to themselves – we'll discount the plain silly BMW X6 'SUV Coupe'.

But M-B has created a superb chassis for the latest M while retaining much of the previous cars' off-road ability – it's a combination of skills the Porsche and BMW rivals cannot match.

The flagship V8 petrol ML63 AMG is a mean-looking star. With almost 5.5 litres offering 525bhp, plus four-wheel-drive to apply that power, the car is a cultured beast – though it will howl like an old-fashioned muscle car if you kick the throttle.

The rolling M-Class gait of the past is gone, yet M-B engineers have not destroyed the ride quality to deliver a rewarding drive, this being a

MERCEDES-BENZ ML63 AMG: PRICE £82,995

FACT FILE



Driving appeal: ★★★★★

Image: ★★★★★

Space: ★★★★★

Value: ★★

Reliability: ★★★★★

How green?: ★

Road tax: £475 (£1,030 year one)

Best rival: Range Rover

Kent dealers:

Mercedes-Benz Kent	
Ashford	01233 505400
Maidstone	01622 623700
Tonbridge	01732 771761
Canterbury	01227 817670

SMOOTH OPERATOR: Mercedes claims its M-Class is now the world's favourite luxury SUV and the third-generation model, above, certainly catches the eye

mantra the German marque has adopted more and more lately, paying particular dividends with the current C-Class in its sales battle against the BMW 3 Series.

Of course, the ML63 AMG isn't cheap; prices start at £82,995, almost double the more environmentally-friendly diesel entry model, the

ML 250 Bluetec (£43,235). It groans with kit, though, and all the trappings of M-B's AMG styling house – alloys, body kit and AMG trims and badges – but you can still spec it up further and the test car weighed in at almost £105,000.

If you can afford that, though, you won't mind the fuel bills: you'll be lucky to average 20mpg,

though the official combined cycle is 23.9mpg, and the first year's road tax is a whopping £1,030.

The fact is, it is a brilliant but expensive toy, a halo car for the two low-emission diesel variants – the other one being the ML 350 Bluetec (£46,335) – and proof that the M-Class has put the past a long way behind it.

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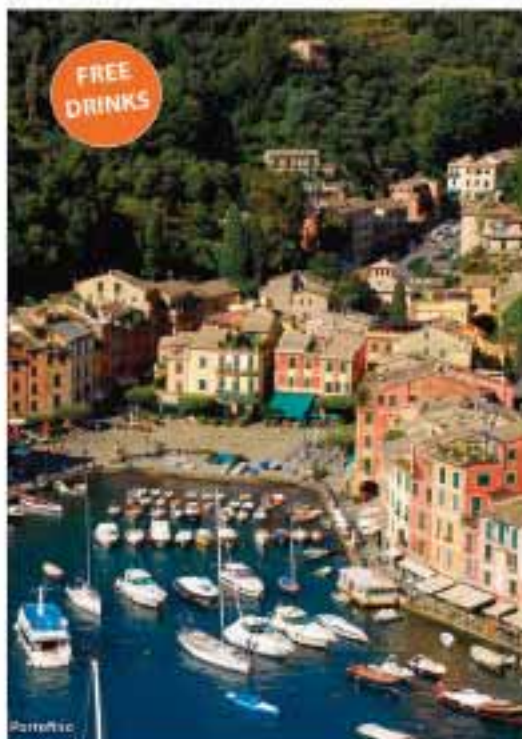
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